



The Lakeville Journal

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Covering The News In Connecticut's Northwest Corner And Its Environs Since 1897

Jasper Johns-linked nonprofit eyes 22.5-Acre Sharon property

By Alec Linden

SHARON – A nonprofit established to transform painter Jasper Johns’ 171-acre Sharon property into an artists’ retreat upon his death is attempting to purchase a neighboring 22.5-acre farmhouse, but the proposed sale has become entangled in a family probate dispute.

Low Road Sharon Inc., a nonprofit established by the 96-year-old painter, is seeking to purchase 60 Millerton Road, a farm that borders the organization’s 171-acre property approved by Sharon’s Planning and Zoning Commission for the future retreat. The organization has not publicly disclosed how it intends to use the additional parcel if the purchase is completed.

Before any sale can proceed,

however, the Litchfield Hills Probate Court must resolve a dispute among members of the family trust that owns the Millerton Road property. A hearing was scheduled at press time, when Judge Jordan Richards was expected to decide whether to approve the sale and rule on objections filed by one of the trustees.

According to probate court documents, Peter Bartram has objected to a petition filed by his sisters, Carey Meltzer and Amy Bartram, seeking court approval to sell the property held by the Hillside Farm Trust. In a June 11 filing, Bartram said the proposed transaction is the second attempt to sell the property to the same buyer after an earlier effort was blocked by the court since

See RETREAT, Page A12



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZMUDA, COURTESY OF SHARON PLAYHOUSE

The all-female cast of *Swingtime Canteen* prepares to wave goodbye after bringing WWII-era music and stories to the stage. The special July 4 performance is among Sharon’s holiday festivities.

Sharon Playhouse

Curtain to close on Swingtime Canteen, but not before a star-spangled Fourth of July finale

By Aly Morrissey

SHARON – *Swingtime Canteen* will go out with a bang after the Fourth of July, with the Sharon Playhouse’s patriotic season opener set to close Sunday, July 5. With a handful of shows remaining, the all-female cast reflected on the im-

portance of centering women in a WWII story, their favorite moments in the production, and their go-to local haunts while staying in the Northwest Corner.

Sitting on the vibrant stage bedecked with stars, stripes and life-sized WWII-era posters, the cast took turns talking about the

relevance of the show as the country prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary.

“What’s so cool about *Swingtime Canteen* is the way it features women,” said Claire Marie Spencer, who plays Topeka Abotelli, the Rosie the

See SWINGTIME, Page A12



PHOTO BY MIA DIROCCO

Embracing the summer heat, children splash around in the Falls Village Town Pool.

Amid heat wave, local swimming opportunities abound

By Mia DiRocco

With temperatures expected to soar into the 90s this week, residents and visitors can take full advantage of the many swimming opportunities available throughout the Northwest Corner. From town pools to lakes, there are plenty of options to cool off in the summer heat.

Cornwall

Hammond Beach, located at 37 Lake Road in West Cornwall, is

open from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. The lake offers swimming, a sand beach, pool house, and is home to events such as Cornwall’s annual town picnic.

For residents, summer passes cost \$10 per individual and \$20 for a family pass. Passes can be purchased at the Cornwall Town Hall Selectmen’s office. The lake also offers swim lessons at \$10 per child or \$30 per family and non-residents. To register for lessons or the swim team, visit the cornwallct.org/community/parks-recreation.

See SWIMMING, Page A12

Dick Hermans to receive the Estabrook Community Leadership Award

Award to be presented at the annual Lakeville Journal and Millerton News Jubilee on Oct. 11

FALLS VILLAGE — The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News will present the 2026 Estabrook Community Leadership Award to Dick Hermans at the annual Jubilee celebration on Oct. 11 at the Sharon Playhouse.

The award honors outstanding leadership in community service. Joan Osofsky and Suzanna Hermans are serving as co-chairs of the event. More than 50 community members, reflecting Dick’s wide influence and his support of writers, editors

and publishers, have joined the Host Committee to support both Dick’s recognition and the annual fundraising effort for The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

See DICK HERMANS, Page A12

An old theater gets a new life in Lakeville

By Alec Linden

LAKEVILLE – A theater built more than two decades ago by acclaimed actor Rip Torn, but used only once, is finally getting its long-awaited second act.

Salisbury’s Planning and Zoning Commission approved plans in June to reopen the renovated barn at 16 Farnum Road as a 99-seat, summer theater, clearing the way for a season of programming in

See THEATER, Page A10



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Two local actors are reviving a theater built by the late Rip Torn, giving the old barn a second life.



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Online This Week

HVRHS SENIOR AWARDS

The 2026 HVRHS Awards and Scholarship winners were announced last week. Read more at lakevillejournal.com.

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Railroad Street rear-end
Around noon on June 24, Richmond Shirlock, 55, of Canaan braked to initiate a left turn from Railroad Street in North Canaan when a vehicle following closely behind struck the rear bumper of the Chevrolet Equinox he drove. The trailing vehicle, a Dodge Durango GT driven by Jessica King, 35, of North Canaan, was disabled in the incident, though the Equinox was driven from the scene. Neither driver reported injuries, and King was ultimately issued an infraction for following too closely.

Low hanging wires snag vehicle
Near 1 p.m. on June 27, Juan Gonzalez, 41, of the Bronx, New York attempted to make a turn into the Pink House restaurant parking lot in West Cornwall when the top of the Hino vehicle he drove struck utility wires, causing minor damage to the roof. The wires were concluded to be low hanging, causing officers not to take any enforcement action.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Send mail to P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send to editor@lakevillejournal.com.

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News welcome new board members

FALLS VILLAGE — LJMN Media, Inc., publisher of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, has announced the addition of three new members to its board of directors: Elyse Harney Morris, Thomas Trowbridge III and Karsten Moller. The appointments reflect the organization's continued commitment to strong local journalism and community engagement.

Harney Morris, of Salisbury, is the co-owner of a leading regional real estate firm and comes from a family with deep roots in the Northwest Corner. She has served on the boards of numerous local organizations, including Indian Mountain School, the Salisbury Grove Committee, and the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, and has long been active in conservation and community initiatives throughout the region, including Project SAGE and the Dutchess and Columbia Land Conservancies.

Trowbridge, of Sharon, is an attorney, civic leader, and author who served for many years on the board of the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, including as its president during the restoration and expansion of the library's historic building. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Michigan Law School, he spent much of his legal career with prominent New York law firms.

Moller, of Salisbury, has held senior leadership positions in international finance, investment banking and asset management, including roles with Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan-affiliated Highbridge Principal Strategies and the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association. He currently advises organizations on investor relations, fundraising and strategic partnerships and has been an active supporter of regional nonprofit organizations.

"Elyse, Tom and Karsten each bring valuable experience, strong community ties and a commitment to the future of local journalism," said CEO and Publisher James H. Clark. "We are grateful for the knowledge and perspective they bring to our mission."



The Lakeville Journal

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The Lakeville Journal • The Millerton News

North Canaan median home price reaches \$350K

By Christine Bates

NORTH CANAAN – The median price for a single-family home in North Canaan was \$350,000 for the 12-month period ending May 31, 2026, according to Multiple Listing Service (MLS) data, reflecting strong sales.

The latest median marks a 23% increase from the \$284,500 median recorded for the 12 months ending May 2025 and a 26% increase from the \$277,950 median recorded for the comparable period ending May 2024. The all-time high of \$357,750 was recorded during the 12-month period ending April 2026.

Homes in North Canaan have been selling quickly, spending an average of 14 days on the market before going under contract. By comparison, the average was 37 days in Salisbury and 43 days in Sharon during the rolling 12-month period ending in May.

The number of homes sold during the 12 months ending May 31, 2026, totaled 29, up from 14 during the previous 12-month period and 24 during the 12 months ending May 31, 2024.

Sales peaked at 47 during the 12-month period ending in August 2021, at the height



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

26 Granite Ave., which recently sold for \$595,000, consists of two renovated residences on .91 acres - a Victorian main house built in 1882 with 5 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms and a 576-square-foot studio with 1 bedroom and 1.5 bath.

of the COVID-era housing boom.

There were 10 single-family homes on the market at the end of June, indicating the spring selling season had arrived in North Canaan. Only two were listed below the median price of \$350,000, while four were priced above \$500,000, suggesting home prices are likely to remain high.

April and May Transfers
41 Prospect St. – 3 bedroom/2 bath bungalow built in 1927 on .23 acres transferred by Natasha Clark Coons to Argos Ventures LLC for \$210,000 on April 22, 2026

37 Green Ave. – 3 bedroom/1 bath raised ranch built in 1962 transferred by Anne Fitzgerald to David Santos for \$370,000 on April 23, 2026

143 East Canaan Road – 6 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 12.49 acres transferred by High Watch Recovery Center Inc. to Michael Joseph Poynton on May 5, 2026 for \$1,000,000

26 Granite Ave. – Two buildings on 1.32 acres transferred by Adam Eisenberg to Wildboys LLC for \$595,000 – see photo caption for details

16 Browns Lane – 2 bedroom/1 bath cape on .91 acres transferred by Ashley Ann Moore to Logan Trey Bermas for \$345,000

** Town of North Canaan real estate transfers recorded between April 1, 2026, and May 31, 2026, provided by North Canaan Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market data from Info Sparks. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.*

SALISBURY COMMEMORATES THE NATION'S 250TH BIRTHDAY



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★ Boat Parade on Lake Wononscopomuc

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Our Towns

Life-sized Declaration of Independence hangs outside of Sharon Town Hall

By Aly Morrissey

SHARON – Resident and activist Deborah Moore is the driving force behind a new 7-by-9-foot reproduction of the Declaration of Independence that hangs between the main columns at Town Hall. The banner will serve as a patriotic backdrop during Saturday’s festivities, which will include a complete reading of the founding document at the Hotchkiss Library.

The Fourth of July is often a time for fireworks and celebrations, Moore said, but this year has placed a welcome focus on history. With a background in public art, she thought the installation would be a positive way to celebrate the country’s founding principles.

“When I brought the idea to the 250th planning committee and the historical society, they loved it,” Moore said. The initial idea was to march in the Memorial Day parade with the banner to promote the Fourth of July celebrations, but the rain cancellation forced other plans.

The banner will hang at Town Hall until after July 4. Moore said the Declaration’s final passages, which focus on people working toward a common goal in uni-

ty, inspired her to conceive of the large-scale public display.

“It reminds us that freedom is never just about individual rights; it is also about mutual responsibility,” she said. “The signers tied their futures together, accepting real risk for the sake of a common good larger than any one person.”

Publicly standing up for what we believe in is a right, Moore said, and one she sees exercised on the local level.

Moore said she has seen

“It reminds us that freedom is never just about individual rights; it is also about mutual responsibility.”

Deborah Moore

that spirit firsthand through community efforts such as the Save Sharon Hospital campaign, which successfully blocked Nuvance Health from shutting down the hospital’s labor and delivery unit. Moore and others worked for years to rally support from residents, local politicians and lawmakers.

“That’s true democracy in motion,” she said.

Moore said she sees the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sharon resident and activist Deborah Moore stands proudly in front of the Declaration of Independence that hangs from Town Hall.

same commitment reflected in other ways throughout Sharon.

“It can show up in quieter acts of service,” she said, citing neighbors volunteering on boards and commissions, parents and educators working for better schools, resi-

dents turning out to vote, and looking out for one another.

“The founders’ final words are not relics of 1776; they are an ongoing invitation to treat citizenship as a shared pledge — one we renew together, day by day, close to home.”

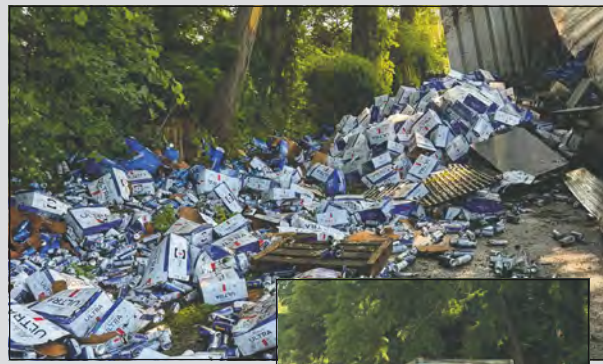


PHOTO PROVIDED

Debris spills onto Route 44 in Salisbury after a truck crashed Monday, June 29.



Truck driver issued speeding ticket after sending beer all over Route 44 in Salisbury

By Aly Morrissey and Christian Murray

SALISBURY – An early morning crash on Route 44 near Twin Lakes Road sent dozens, if not hundreds, of beer cases onto the road when a speeding tractor-trailer failed to make a right turn. The truck went off the road just after 5:30 a.m. on Monday, June 29, crashing into several signs and trees. The driver, whose license is registered in Illinois, was reportedly unharmed.

Officer Joshua DaSilva of Troop B responded to the scene before the road was closed for several hours

to facilitate an extensive clean-up effort. Drivers were forced to seek alternate routes during the closure.

The detour was necessary, police said, so they could clear the large volume of debris and safely remove the “severely damaged truck and trailer,” which was towed to Arnold’s Garage in Canaan.

The driver, Filmon Mahari Zerae, 36, was issued a ticket for driving too fast for the conditions.

This crash remains under investigation, and police are asking witnesses to contact Trooper DaSilva #915 at (860) 626-1820.

Sharon residents overwhelmingly approve BOE budget in reversal of May vote

By Alec Linden

SHARON – Sharon residents voted resoundingly in favor of the proposed 2026-27 town spending plan on Monday, June 29, reversing their rejection of the budget several weeks ago and bringing to an end the dispute over funding of the Sharon Center School.

The proposal passed Monday by a vote of 90 in favor versus 12 against, a turnaround from essentially the same one that was rejected 114-99 at a May 8 town meeting. That meeting brought the highest turnout in recent memory to a budget vote.

The only difference in the updated budget is a minor reduction in the municipal bottom line due to staffing changes at Town Hall, coming in at a total of \$5,408,605. The Board of Education’s elementary school budget remained unchanged with a bottom line of \$4,165,513.

Sharon Center School has been the subject of an extended dispute between the Board of Finance – which cites fiscal responsibility as its motivation to keep the budget flat – and school advocates who have described the board’s actions as inflexible.

After weeks of negotiations, the Board of Finance returned the same education budget to voters while creating a \$35,000 reserve fund from its undesignated account that could be used for school expenses if needed.

During the meeting, BOF Chair Tom Bartram said the fund was an attempt “to solve the disparity between what the BOF would authorize

and what the BOE presented,” referring to an earlier draft of the education budget that was trimmed by \$69,000 to meet the BOF’s 0% increase requirement.

Since the fund was proposed by the BOF at its June 16 meeting, several school administrators and advocates have criticized the amount and for having the BOF be in control of disbursing the money. Still, the new fund passed.

First Selectman Casey Flanagan said he was happy the town could agree on a budget before the start of the fiscal year on July 1. “We can schedule road work, we can put orders in on vehicles and equipment,” he said. He also said new hires and town employees with cost-of-living wage increases will see normal pay.

Flanagan said he thought the creation of the fund was a turning point in getting the town to approve the budget. “No one got everything they wanted,” he said. And when dealing with compromises, “that’s a good thing.”

BOE Chair Philip O’Reilly agreed with Flanagan’s assessment. He said the public budget disputes of the last two months have demonstrated the importance of “informed citizenship” in processes like these.

O’Reilly has consistently affirmed that the proposed flat budget is a well-funded budget for the school that will provide for its students’ needs.

“Somehow the message got out that we weren’t taking care of our children,” he said, “and that couldn’t be further from the truth, and it never will be true.”

By Annie Prinz

SALISBURY – For a second consecutive year, NASCAR returns to the Northwest Corner and will kick off the weekend with a parade down Main Street and Pit Stop Party at the White Hart Inn Thursday, July 9.

The CRAFTSMAN Truck Series haulers – tractor-trailers designed to carry racing vehicles, serving as the race team’s mobile garage and storage facility – will tower over Main Street, giving residents and race fans a preview of the upcoming LIUNA 150 race weekend at Lime Rock Park.

The main event will take place at The White Hart Inn, where the best viewing spots for the parade can be found. In addition to providing a good view, the weekend celebrations will continue at the White Hart’s free NASCAR Pit Stop Party from 4 to 6 p.m.

The haulers are expected to pass the inn at about 4:30 p.m., offering spectators a central viewing location as the convoy travels through town. Escorted by the Connecticut State Police, the parade will consist of nearly 40 NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series haulers, traveling from North Canaan to Lime Rock Park.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIME ROCK PARK

The White Hart is gearing up for Lime Rock’s second NASCAR event, and will host a “pit stop party” as CRAFTSMAN Truck Series haulers tower down Main Street.

Emma Osborne, assistant manager at The White Hart, said the inn’s lawn will be open for viewing. The outdoor bar will be open, free popcorn will be available for spectators, and Provisions, the inn’s cafe and general store, will remain open until 6 p.m.

After the haulers pass, fans

will have the chance to meet several drivers, including Tanner Gray, Tricon Crew Chief Scott Zipadelli and others, at a 4:45 p.m. meet-and-greet at The White Hart. The parade and party are intended to bring the race weekend beyond Lime Rock Park and into the surrounding community before competition

begins.

The LIUNA 150 weekend will begin Friday, July 10, with ARCA Menards Series racing. The NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series and USF Juniors will race Saturday, July 11. Lime Rock Park presents the Pit Stop Party in partnership with NASCAR, The White Hart Inn and local sponsors.

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\$1.5M state grant advances protection of 245-acre Housatonic River property

By Debra A. Aleksinas

CANAAN — A 245-acre riverfront property in North Canaan is a major step closer to permanent protection after the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC) secured a \$1.5 million state grant to help acquire it. The tract, one of the largest remaining undeveloped stretches along the Housatonic River in Northwest Connecticut, had previously been approved for residential subdivision.

The grant, announced June 26 and awarded through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Program, will support preservation of more than a mile of Housatonic River frontage and more than a half-mile along the Blackberry River where it joins the Housatonic in the Weatogue Valley.

According to NCLC Executive Director Catherine Rawson, preserving the property will protect one of the last major unprotected landscapes along the Housatonic River corridor from future development.

NCLC is purchasing the property from H. Bruce McEver, who had received approval for a 20-lot subdivision on the land before abandoning the project last year, clearing the way for the

conservation purchase.

The acquisition would conserve what NCLC describes as the largest contiguous tract of unfragmented riverine and interior forest habitat remaining on the east side of the Housatonic River between the Massachusetts border and Connecticut's Great Falls.

Just as importantly, the project would complement thousands of acres already protected across the river in Salisbury, helping create an expansive, permanently conserved landscape spanning both sides of the federally designated National Wild and Scenic Housatonic River.

"With the support of our members, partners and the North Canaan community, NCLC is advancing the protection of one of the largest remaining stretches of undeveloped riverfront and forest habitat along the Housatonic River," said Rawson. "It will create an unparalleled opportunity for residents to enjoy the river and nature near downtown North Canaan."

The purchase price is \$2.25 million, with the state grant covering about two-

thirds of the cost. NCLC is seeking to raise about \$2.6 million in total to cover the purchase, environmental due diligence, legal and transaction expenses, and the infrastructure and long-term stewardship needed to prepare the preserve for public access.

While the grant marks a major milestone, additional fundraising is still needed before the purchase can be completed. If fundraising is successful and the project stays on schedule, Rawson

said NCLC hopes to begin opening the preserve to the public by the summer of 2028.

Several additional land preservation groups were also awarded state preservation grants on June 26.

The Salisbury Association (SA) received two grants: a \$124,150 grant to acquire 63 acres along Routes 7 and 112 in Salisbury, including 34 acres to be preserved through OSWA where Salmon Kill Creek flows into the Housatonic River. The property adjoins and is part of the Appalachian Trail Corridor. SA also received a \$468,000 grant to preserve 96 acres of mostly core forest land on Lincoln

"It will create an unparalleled opportunity for residents to enjoy the river and nature near downtown North Canaan."

*Catherine Rawson
Executive director of NCLC*



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy received a \$1.5 million state grant to help protect this 245-acre property along the Housatonic River in North Canaan and create a new public nature preserve.

City Road in Salisbury.

The Sharon Land Trust Inc. (SLT) was awarded a \$243,750 grant to acquire 65 acres on Gay Street. The property slopes from the heights of Red Mountain down to Beardsley Pond, a town drinking water reservoir. The land is surrounded on three sides by conservation properties and connected to thousands of acres of protected land. SLT plans to extend its existing Red Mountain public-access trail to the property.

"Open space provides benefits to residents across Connecticut and makes our state a great place to live," Gov. Ned Lamont said in making the announcements. "These community assets provide free recreational opportuni-

ties and connect our residents to all the health benefits that come from spending time outdoors."

A critical piece of the river corridor

The North Canaan acquisition would permanently conserve a landscape recognized for its ecological, scenic and recreational value along the Housatonic River.

According to Connecticut's Natural Diversity Database, the property provides habitat for 10 state-listed species, including the northern long-eared bat, mudpuppy, wood turtle and skillet clubtail dragonfly. The northern long-eared bat is also listed as federally endangered. The property also supports several rare plant species and contains prime farmland soils

considered important statewide.

Once completed, the preserve will offer hiking, wildlife observation, fishing and other low-impact recreation using existing woods roads and gentle terrain. Within walking distance of downtown North Canaan, it will expand public access to open space while strengthening connections to the Appalachian Trail, Twin Lakes and the Housatonic Heritage Area's Hou-Bike-Walk Trail.

North Canaan First Selectman Jesse Bunce called the project "an incredible opportunity for our community."

"Protecting this land will preserve an important part of North Canaan's natural heritage while creating new opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors," Bunce said in a statement. "We appreciate the partnership of NCLC and the State of Connecticut in making this investment in our town and future generations."

Founded in 1965 and based in Kent, NCLC is the state's largest land trust, protecting more than 14,400 acres across Litchfield and northern Fairfield counties. Its portfolio includes public hiking preserves, working farms, rivers and streams, and habitat supporting numerous rare and endangered species.

A Centennial Exhibition

Celebrating the spirit and founders of Norfolk's Aton Forest

By Jennifer Almquist

NORFOLK – This month, Norfolk will celebrate the legacy of two Connecticut conservation pioneers. Ecologist Dr. Frank Egler and his wife, photographer Happy Kitchel Egler, founded Aton Forest, the 2,496-acre natural area land trust and ecosystem research field station, which is marking its centennial year.

The milestone will be celebrated throughout July with an exhibition, lectures, and other events marking 100 years of Aton Forest. The recent acquisition of the 965-acre Spaulding Pond preserve in South Norfolk from the Connecticut River Conservancy will also be recognized. The preserve was originally created by Happy Kitchel (1912-1978).

Today, Aton Forest's staff and trustees continue the Egler's work by studying and protecting forest preserves, essential ecosystems and vital habitats for wildlife.

Frank Egler (1911-1996) spent more than a half century living in the forest, conducting scientific research, experimenting with vegetation science, and developing his concepts of an integrated ecosystem in the 1500-acre Egler Preserve in North Norfolk and Colebrook. He also worked at The Museum of Natural History where he began a research program on herbicide spraying in rights of way.

Egler praised his wife's efforts to preserve Spaulding Pond, writing that protecting that tract "was one of the remarkable accomplishments of an extraordinary woman."

A lesser known experience of Egler's is his collaboration with aquatic biologist Rachel Carson during her research for her seminal book "Silent Spring." Carson sought his



PHOTO PROVIDED

expertise on the ecological effects of chemical pollution, and correspondence between the two is preserved in Aton Forest's archives. Egler became an early advocate for limiting herbicide use and

wrote of Carson, "Among biologists, the most unsilent and courageous man I know is a woman."

A prolific writer of five books and more than 300 articles, Egler's best-known book,

Dr. Frank Egler, ecologist and founder of Aton Forest, smiles next to his wife, Happy Kitchel Egler. The couple will be honored this month.

"The Wild Gardener and the Wild Landscape: The Art of Naturalistic Landscaping," is illustrated with his wife's photographs of Woodchuck Hill, where Egler developed his gardening skills for fifty years, and where he is buried.

Current Aton Forest President and Chief Steward Billy Gridley described Egler as "primarily a plant ecologist . . . and a pioneer in the philosophy of science and the need to understand the human ecosystem."

Gridley's new book, "The Spirit of Aton Forest: Frank Egler, Rebel Ecologist in Pursuit of Science and Natural Area Protection," will be available in a limited edition at the opening reception for the centennial exhibition. Gridley will also speak July 10 at 4:30 p.m. at the Hub in

Norfolk.

In the future, Aton Forest plans to expand forest succession research, weather monitoring, citizen science work, and educational opportunities for scientists and students. While not open to the public, through events, gatherings, and education days, the mission of Aton Forest remains constant: "to positively impact thriving natural and human communities in an increasingly ecologically challenged bioregion and biosphere in the 21st century."

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OBITUARIES

Anna Mae Kupferer

MILLERTON — Anna Mae Kupferer was born May 10, 1937, and died May 3, 2026. She grew up in Maplewood, New Jersey where she and her older sister, Dorothea, worked in their father's ice cream parlor on a life-long obsession with ice cream. As a young woman, Anna Mae attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, receiving her Actor's Equity card and appearing in summer stock theater productions with the likes of Eartha Kitt and Charlton Heston. In 1961 Anna Mae married Andrew Bruce Kupferer and settled down in West Orange, New Jersey to raise her family of three boys. In the mid-seventies, the family moved to Millerton, New York, an idyllic small town in the Hudson Valley. Anna Mae made friends quickly in her new community and soon found a job at the Lakeville Journal, working her way up from collating the newspaper to advertising manager. Anna Mae loved meeting the area's business owners and helping them increase their sales. She was a straight shooter with an incredible sense of humor which she put to good use writing her weekly column in the Journal, Keep Your Sunny Side Up, poking fun at herself and her family, and the travails of country living. For nearly fifty years, Anna Mae was a hardworking, vital force in Millerton. In 2023, she moved from her beloved saltbox house with the "tomahawk door" on Rudd Pond Road to be closer to family. While she missed her friends and neighbors -- particularly her "adopted family" the Elliotts, she was lucky to land at Hartwell Place, an assisted living home in Chicago. She once again made friends quickly becoming an integral part of their caring and compassionate community. Anna Mae was a devoted wife, loving mother, and doting, generous grandmother. She is survived by her sons Keith (Tara Mallen) and Kurt (Jolanta), and her granddaughter Katherine Mallen Kupferer. She is preceded in death by her husband, Bruce, and her oldest son, Christopher. A celebration of Anna Mae's life will be held (TBD) in Millerton, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Anna Mae's memory to Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (www.RivendellTheatre.org)--a professional theater she loved to attend that her son Keith and daughter-in-law Tara founded in Chicago in 1996. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, July 9, 2026 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. A prayer service will take place at 6:30 p.m. during visitation. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Anna Mae's honor, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.



Celebration of Life
Bill Hower

Bill Hower's celebration of life will be on Sunday July 12th at Catamount Mountain Resort at 1:00 p.m.

MILLERTON — Donald Harry Duncan, 78, of Millerton, New York, passed away peacefully at home on June 16, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. Born on Nov. 30, 1947, in Millerton, Don was the son of the late Kenneth T. Duncan and Georgeanna (Jaynes) Duncan. A lifelong resident of Millerton, he was deeply rooted in the community he loved and in the land that had been part of his family for generations. Don earned an Associate Degree in Animal Husbandry from Cornell University and spent much of his life doing what he loved most--farming. As a proud farmer at Duncandale Farm, he carried on a family tradition while working tirelessly to preserve the farmland from future development, ensuring that it would remain open and productive for generations to come. He took special pride in sharing that work with his grandchildren, Gabriel, Braeden, and Ariana, who worked alongside him on the farm. He also worked for twelve years as a machine operator at Kimberly-Clark and later spent several years working alongside his son, Alex, as a carpenter. A devoted member of the Millerton community, Don was active in numerous organizations, including the Millerton Presbyterian Church, the Millerton Grange, and the Millerton Lions Club. He was especially proud to be one of the Rounders of Riga, a tradition shared by his father and many of his lifelong friends. Each fall, he eagerly anticipated deer camp, where he enjoyed hunting, walking the woods, and spending time with friends who became like family. Don was a loyal friend and mentor to many, generously sharing his time and support as a sponsor to fellow friends of Bill W. His quiet wisdom, steady presence, and willingness to help others left a lasting impact on countless lives, always offering encouragement, understanding, and hope whenever it was needed. Nothing brought Don greater joy than his family. In April of 1967, he was set up with Sharon (Drake) on a blind date for his spring formal with Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. Six months later they were married, beginning a partnership that would span 58 years and become the foundation of a life filled with love, laughter, faith, and family. Together they raised three sons, Bruce (Wendy), Alex (Betsy), and Steven (Kim), and were blessed with seven grandchildren: Sydney, Chelsea, Bailey, Braeden, Tony, Gabriel, and Ariana. When he wasn't working, Don enjoyed fishing, hunting, solving Sudoku puzzles, spoiling his cats, and the many ski trips he shared with family and friends over the years. He appreciated life's simple pleasures and found happiness in everyday moments. In addition to his wife, children, and grandchildren, Don is survived by his sister, Patricia Flood of Millerton, and his brother, James Duncan (Annette) of Ballston Spa, New York, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother-in-law, Thomas Flood, his in-laws, Herbert and Helen Drake, and his brother-in-law, David Drake. Those who knew Don will remember his kindness, humility, strong work ethic, and unwavering dedication to family, friends, faith, and community. His legacy lives on in the land he cherished, the family he loved, and the many lives he touched. And while we mourn his absence, we take comfort in imagining him reunited with his dear friend Bob--casting a



line, swapping stories, and sharing a laugh once again. The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to the many physicians, nurses, aides, and caregivers who supported Don throughout his journey. They are especially grateful to Dr. Ashita Talsania of Smilow Cancer Hospital in Torrington, whose extraordinary skill, compassion, dedication, and unwavering care over many years meant more to Don and his family than words can express. All services will be held on Wednesday, July 1st at South Amenia Presbyterian Church, 229 South Amenia Road, Wassaic, NY. Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life at 12:00 noon. A reception will follow in the church social hall. Don was happiest in casual clothes and always greeted others with a smile. To celebrate the way he lived, the family encourages guests to wear colorful, casual clothing and to bring a smile of their own. Memorial contributions may be made in Don's memory to Yale New Haven Hospital, Fund for Smilow Cancer Hospital, Office of Development, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508 to help advance research, treatment, and hope for individuals and families facing blood cancers, or to the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington Street, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. The family is deeply grateful for the exceptional care, comfort, and dignity provided by hospice during Don's final days. Please note "Donald Duncan" in the memo line of any check donation. Online gifts may also be made through either organization. The family also encourages those who can to donate blood. Don's life was extended and enriched by the generosity of blood donors, and their gifts made a meaningful difference. Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546, www.conklinfuneralhome.com.



Worship Services

Week of July 5, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville
Offering companionship along the Way
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org
trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people
172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 am
www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232

FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH
is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm
www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

Congregation Beth David
A reform Jewish Synagogue
3344 East Main St., Amenia
SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM
Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org)
ALL ARE WELCOME
Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbethdavid.org

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:15 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
Coffee Hour
A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!
860-824-0194

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
No Sunday School in Summer
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.
www.thsmithfieldchurch.org
21st Century Theology in an Historic Building

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church
313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT
Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Special Services Online
Rev. John Kreta
860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

Sharon Congregational
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Millerton United Methodist Church
6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812
Millerton, NY 12546
Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M.
518-789-5138

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming
www.salisburyucc.org
Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!
(860) 435-2442

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH
Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk
St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville
MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church
Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE
Wednesday 6pm
St. Joseph Chapel or Church
Thursday 8am
Immaculate Conception Church
Friday 8am
Church of St. Mary
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Amenia Union, NY
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www.stthomasamenia.com
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Sunday Worship - 11am
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting -- 7PM
(860) 824-5685
VISITORS WELCOME!
www.promisedlandbaptist.org

Canaan United Methodist Church
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT
8:00AM - Worship Service
2nd & 4th Sunday
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

OUR TOWNS

PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

A warm send-off for Susan Kelsey in Falls Village

Susan Kelsey was honored by the Falls Village Town Hall staff with a reception Wednesday, June 24. She is stepping down as Republican Registrar of Voters after more than a decade of service.

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

Local Matters

Your nonprofit community news source needs your ongoing support to flourish.

Please visit lakevillejournal.com/donate to give a donation of any size.

Thank you!

The Lakeville Journal ■ The Millerton News

EDITORIAL

Thank you for helping meet the match

This spring, the board members of LJMN Media offered a \$75,000 matching challenge in support of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

Thanks to readers, donors, neighbors and friends across the region, we met that challenge.

Every gift made during the campaign was matched dollar for dollar by members of our Board of Directors, doubling its impact. We are grateful to everyone who gave and to the board members who made the match possible.

The money raised will help support the work already underway across the organization: improving how the news reaches readers; expanding reporting; strengthening arts and lifestyle coverage; supporting student journalism; and continuing to produce the local news our communities rely on.

That work depends on many kinds of support. Subscriptions, advertising and donations all help keep The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News strong as nonprofit newspapers.

At a time when many local papers are shrinking or disappearing, this community continues to show that local journalism matters. We do not take that for granted.

Thank you for helping us meet this year's challenge, and for continuing to support trusted, independent local news in Northwest Connecticut and eastern Dutchess County.

— James H. Clark, CEO/Publisher

LET'S HEAR IT...



THIS WEEK

As the nation prepares to celebrate its 250th Independence Day, the country finds itself divided on many issues. The Fourth of July has long been a day to celebrate the nation, but it can also be a time to reflect on what patriotism means in today's America.

Are you feeling patriotic for this year's 250th Fourth of July? How do you plan to celebrate or observe the holiday?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, July 6 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What are you looking forward to this summer?

"The Cliff House in Egremont."

— Anna S, Salisbury

"I am looking forward to the July 12th Falls Village Car and Motorcycle show. I'm looking forward to August 15th which is the Falls Village Historical Festival and I'm just looking forward to our town pool being open and all the good things Falls Village has to offer."

— Judy Jacobs, Falls Village

"We're looking forward to this. We planned a haphazard trip to get up here, to kind of be away, to be in small towns, to slow down and have perspective again. We're doing right now what we've been looking forward to."

— Daryl Crawford, Lehigh Valley, PA

Opinion



The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Lakeville Journal and the Journal does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and organizations for the general support of our activities, but our news judgments are made independently and not on the basis of donor support.

Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com Include name, town and phone number. Keep letters to 500 words or less.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let us vote for 'We the People'

Now is the time that tries our souls. As we celebrate our Declaration of Independence in 1776, let us commit ourselves to the ideals declared 250 years ago by voting for We the People and our Common Good and by declaring our independence from the current wannabe-king. Let us campaign and vote

FOR the full promise of our Declaration of Independence;

FOR equality and the rights to Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness of all people of all races, colors, faiths, genders, and ethnic origins;

FOR government of the people, by the people, for the people, NOT government of the rich, by the privileged, for the select few;

FOR our communities and the Common Good in our cities, suburbs, and rural countryside, including affordable healthcare, quality schools and colleges, food security, libraries, local police, fire protection, disaster relief, postal service, transportation and communications infrastructure;

FOR the rule of law, freedom of the press, and academic freedom;

FOR fair taxation of all,

NOT tax breaks for the rich;

FOR affordable food, housing, and drugs;

FOR health regulations based on science;

FOR peace, NOT capricious wars of choice;

FOR performance of solemn treaty obligations, NOT whimsical repudiation;

FOR professional diplomats and scientists to conduct international negotiations, NOT amateur in-laws and business friends;

FOR legislation prohibiting payouts to convicted criminals from an "anti-weaponization" settlement fund;

FOR sensible tariffs, NOT tariff yo-yo;

FOR ethics and truth, NOT corruption and falsehoods;

FOR intelligent modesty, NOT dumb arrogance;

FOR responsible political parties, NOT personal cults;

FOR developing and regulating AI to be positive and safe for society, NOT a threat to civilization;

FOR humane public administration of detention centers and prisons, NOT private profiteering and cost cutting through inhumane treatment;

FOR legislation to remove

presidential immunity from criminal prosecution;

FOR legislation to prohibit portraits of living persons on passports, currency, and securities and to prohibit monuments to and statues and posters of living current and former presidents in any location other than a presidential library;

FOR the integration of legal immigrants into American society, NOT deportation;

FOR prohibitions on members of Congress from trading securities and on government officials from using inside information for personal gain;

FOR legislation to require IRS audit of the tax returns of the president, his immediate family, and their businesses;

FOR a well-trained and fully funded military loyal to the Constitution and the people, not to any individual;

FOR limiting the use of the military to operations outside the country which are authorized by Congress, NOT for using the military for domestic control of the people or interference with elections;

FOR the support of veterans and their families;

FOR funding public radio and television;

FOR public monuments to celebrate our values and ideals, NOT gaudy personal vanity projects;

FOR protecting our natural resources, environment, water, air, and climate;

AND FINALLY, FOR celebrating the ideals in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and committing to a new birth of freedom to realize those ideals for all people.

We can do it!

G. A. Mudge

Sharon

The work continues

Although the final budget outcome did not produce the result many of us had hoped for, our work is not finished. We must continue to advocate for and protect Sharon Center School. I remain hopeful that we can work together to strengthen the school, attract more families with children to Sharon, and make the investments necessary to ensure its long-term success.

A strong public school benefits everyone. It helps protect property values, at-

tracts families with children, supports local businesses, and reflects the kind of community we want Sharon to be.

Thank you again to everyone who has given their time, energy, and voice to this effort. Your commitment to our school and our community has not gone unnoticed, and I hope you will continue to stay engaged as we work toward a brighter future for Sharon Center School.

Michael Lynch

Sharon

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Mission Statement

LJMN Media, Inc. Publishers of

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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Executive Editor

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PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Summer bouquet

Viewpoint

From Sea to Shining Sea

In 1895, a Wellesley professor, Katherine Bates, traveled cross country from New England to Colorado. Upon arriving she wrote a poem that evolved into a beloved American anthem (melody by Samuel Ward added years later). America the Beautiful easily gins up vociferous American clammer at any time, at any moment as it justly portrays our nation today as it did for the July 4th commemoratives of 1895.

Oh beautiful for Spacious Skies here in the Northwest corner of Connecticut where star studded skies go on forever as do the vastness of green woods, the charm of small towns and villages, the friendliness of folk, the grace of horses and the surprising appearance of bears. Across the nation are the splendor of flat lands, majestic mountains, a near six pack of Great Lakes, the mighty Mississippi, tall cities, cherished monuments of history: Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore as well as national parks protecting wonders of natures. Farm lands are rich with produce, industrial lands employee millions, academia and laboratories bring miracles forth.

Across the fruited plains from across the globe, people have come to the U.S. to engage in the World Cup, which for them, not us, is their national game (ours is “real” American football). Many came reluctantly, some were tormented with ridiculous entry barriers or barred from entry entirely. These international fans came to 11 U.S. cities for competitions but 39 cities/towns across the country offered visiting teams “home” bases. These World Cup fans – not traditional tourists- speak of the beauty and vast differences of the terrain. All seem to expound on how everything is LARGE from skyscrapers, to massive discount stores, to the size of meals, to the generosity and welcome of the American people. In Lawrence, Kansas, residents greeted the Algerian team with valiant attempts to serenade them with their national anthem- in Algerian. In Boston, Scottish bagpipers paraded in Red Sox shirts. Americans are keen, super keen sports enthusiasts (e.g. the Knicks) so we are easily contagious to the excitement, roars, joy of all sports.

A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness. Attempts to rewrite or conceal American history at D.C. museums and national

OPEN SPACE

KATHY HERALD-MARLOWE

parks have met with judicial blocks. History is - ours has been struggling yet advancing, standing up for liberty for all. More than 600,000 soldiers died in the Civil War seeking equality through unity. For centuries, folks have marched, protested in peace, been relocated, incarcerated and attacked – white, black, red, yellow. Periods of supremacy rise and they fall. The U.S. is large, it is diverse – defamation and immoral speeches don’t change its essence. America has been a staunchly democratic place of envy, it has blundered of late, yet its history is rich with spreading health, reducing poverty across the globe while advocating freedom and democracy.

Crown thy good with brotherhood Lending a hand, helping others in need, risking one’s safety for others is as American as apple pie, as common as sports jerseys. The news and more importantly communities celebrate daily heroes, those who when crisis emerges step forward without hesitation, are oblivious to fanfare, to severe weather, to impossibilities. Governmental responses may or may not emerge timely with effectiveness but citizenry is certain to be present, to respond with immediacy, to offer all that can be provided, to be there for others. The U.S. hasn’t always been in military battles/conflicts of high regard, but in World War I and particularly World World II Americans were essential to ending despots and death.

The 250th commemoration of the Declaration of Independence, the founding of the USA will this July 4th primarily reside in neighborhoods, communities, states. Historical enactments, massive parades, fireworks and 150 million hot dogs and about an equal number of hamburgers will be the anchors of celebration. What happens in D.C. may be split between a congressional organization and a presidential show. The 4th festivities are not of politics or government but people. No one can reduce the enormity of a nation celebrating its birth and its sustainment of 250 years.

Go well on the 4th of July, be proud to be an American.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — 1901 SALISBURY — Mrs. T.S. Russell had the misfortune to lose one of her farm horses this week.

C.F. Wanger captured a very large snapping turtle Sunday while on his way home from Mt. Riga. He took Mr. Turtle into custody and thought he had him secure, but on going to look at him Monday morning he could not be found. Soon after Mr. Wanger was called by telephone to come and get his new pet. Seeing the rear door of the Maple Shade open the turtle entered. Imagine the landlady’s surprise on entering one of the bed rooms to find turtle in possession which proves that it knew where to look for a first class boarding place.

SHARON — Miss Neenah Ryan opened her Kindergarten school on Monday of this week with nine pupils.

LIME ROCK — About 2,000 pine logs have been hauled to the saw mill here during the past winter. A. Palmer commenced sawing them on Tuesday.

100 years ago — 1926

The marriage of two popular young people took place on Wednesday morning at 11 o’clock at the Congregational Church in Salisbury, when Mr. Charles Nash of Portland, Me. and Miss Lila May Senior, daughter of Mrs. Mary Senior of Salisbury, were united in the holy bond of matrimony by the Rev. John Calvin Goddard.

ORE HILL — Mrs. John Rowe received quite a painful injury recently when she ran a sliver nearly an inch long under a finger nail while employed at Lakeville Manor.

WANTED — Competent woman over twenty-five years old for general housework with cooking — Electric stove — no washing — good wages. Telephone Lakeville 214-2.

50 years ago — 1976

A stone grinding wheel was unearthed last week at the site of Ethan Allen’s furnace in Lakeville. Leonard Godding excavated the spot near the Lakeville Hose Company firehouse in preparation for the addition to that building and came up with numerous specimens of iron ore containing charcoal, and slag, the glassy substance remaining after iron ore is melted down. A leading arsenal of the Revolution, the blast furnace was built in 1762 by Allen and some sturdy neighbors.

A young goshawk was stolen from its artificial nest at the Miles Wildlife Sanctuary in Sharon early Sunday. Arthur Gingert, sanctuary caretaker, speculated that the thief probably intended to use the bird for falconry. The 6 ½ week old chick was nearly ready to fledge, or fly, Gingert said, and he added that he wished the bird had flown away a day sooner. The bird of prey is not rare — Gingert termed the species uncommon but not endangered. Falconers in New York State and Connecticut

have offered to help in the search for the bird. Gingert said there is a black market for the goshawk because it is illegal to buy or sell the bird, valued for the sport of falconry. He said the bird is probably worth several hundred dollars on the black market. The foundling had been carefully tended at the sanctuary and it was hoped that it would soon return to the wild but about 1:30 a.m. Sunday, “someone who knew what he was doing” removed it from its nest.

A microscopic parasitic organism known as “schisotome dermatitis” has been identified as responsible for a recent series of “lake bites” from persons swimming at the Town Grove on Lake Wononscopomuc. Many children have come home covered with bites in recent days. According to First Selectman Charlotte Reid and Recreation Director Art Wilkinson, the organism was identified early this week by representatives of the Union Carbide Environmental Sciences branch in Tarrytown, N.Y. Mrs. Reid said Wednesday the town is in the process of posting a notice at the lake that would explain the problem, but the lake will not be closed to swimmers.

Mr. Wilkinson said the problem is a temporary one, adding that cooler water temperatures will cause the parasites to die.

LAKEVILLE — On June 30, Mabel and Robert Livsey celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have

been residents of Lakeville since 1939 and have lived in the same house on Lincoln City Road for the past 20 years. Mr. Livsey has served as school crossing guard for Salisbury Central for the past nine years. Mrs. Livsey commented that the children of the town love her husband and even tell him when they lose their teeth.

John Flynn, 14, of Lakeville, was the winner of Monday’s Litchfield County Insurance Agents’ Youth Golf Classic at the Litchfield Country Club in the 14-15 year old division.

25 years ago — 2001

SALISBURY — The Yerkes girls have performed a remarkable hat trick. Sisters Nancy, Robin and Lyn Yerkes were all valedictorians of their classes at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Nancy was the most recent, graduating last Thursday evening. Her older siblings proudly report she had the highest grade-point average of the three.

A tractor trailer and carnival ride from James B. Strates Show of Orlando were left behind in the middle of Canaan last week. The train was headed south on the Housatonic Railroad line when the car had to be pulled out of the train for repairs.

These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury’s Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible.

Fix Connecticut’s big problems before trying to seize utilities

THE CHRIS POWELL COLUMN

The state already has five municipalities with their own government-owned electric companies and it manages well enough with them, since most have been around for a century, having begun when electrification was new. But having more electric companies would diminish the economies of scale provided by statewide and regional electric companies.

Establishing a municipal electric company would be doubly expensive because the new company, unlike investor-owned utilities, would be exempt from municipal property taxes, even as investor-owned utilities are the largest property taxpayers in most towns. Municipal electric companies are also unregulated by the state, so they provide less legal assurance of consumer protection.

Yes, electricity in Connecticut is nearly the most expensive in the country, but this is less because the electric utilities are shareholder-owned, strive to earn a profit, and pay some executives excessively than because inflation has increased energy costs generally, the state lacks adequate access to natural gas and won’t use coal, and because state government taxes electricity heavily with its lately infamous “public benefits” charges.

While municipally owned electric utilities provide electricity cheaper in large part because they are exempt from property taxes and “public benefits” charges and don’t

have regional service obligations as the major electric companies do. The municipal systems don’t generate their own electricity and would be lost if they could not obtain it by connecting to the regional electric companies.

This doesn’t mean that government ownership of utilities can’t be made to work in a broader way. It means that government’s acquisition of regional utilities or local components would be hugely expensive and that socializing them on a scatter-shot municipal basis, as Elliott contemplates, would be complicated, disruptive, and distracting to government without offering any guarantee of reducing electricity bills in the foreseeable future.

Connecticut’s schools are failing the poor, remain largely segregated racially, and still cost more every year without improving their results. The

state’s transportation system is creaky. The state has a desperate shortage of housing, and homelessness is rising. State government’s pension obligations remain grossly underfunded. Municipal property taxes keep rising, also without an improvement in services to the public. The state’s cost of living is soaring and no one in authority even tries to reduce the cost of government itself lest government’s employees be offended.

So whether he is elected governor or is just re-elected to the General Assembly, Elliott should apply his socialist inclinations to those problems for a few years before trying to take the electricity business apart. Government in Connecticut has no competence to spare.

Chris Powell has written about Connecticut government and politics for many years.

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Realtor® at Large Abby Conroy will be moving both onward and upward from her position as Director of Land Use here in Salisbury. Her tenure has been marked with the highest degree of professionalism and concern in protecting the natural resources of Salisbury. As a member of the Wetlands Commission, I wish to thank Abby for her leadership and guidance in dealing with difficult issues and helping us to find a balance between development and preserving our lakes and wetlands. So thank you for everything and best wishes on your future endeavors. JOHN HARNEY Associate Broker with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty Office: 19 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068 Email: jharney@wpsir.com Cell: 860-921-7910 Instagram: @johnharneyjr ADVERTISEMENT

Our Towns

More than 50 gather to honor Revolutionary War veterans buried in Sharon cemetery

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – More than 50 people gathered at Ellsworth Burying Ground on Saturday, June 27, to honor the town’s Revolutionary War veterans, as historian, teacher and author Peter Vermilyea brought the lives of the soldiers buried there into focus.

Vermilyea, who spoke for about 40 minutes, told attendees they were surrounded by men “we are here to honor.” Following his talk, many visited the graves of the 21 Revolutionary War soldiers buried at the cemetery, each marked with a small Betsy Ross flag.

“Many pass through cemeteries seeing only dates or names,” Vermilyea said, “Every one of these men lived through one of the most extraordinary moments in human history. Every one of them faced choices that would shape not only their own lives, but the future of a nation.”

Bringing the history of the Revolutionary War close to home, he invoked the names of Sharon citizens who answered the call to serve. Among them were Joseph Bailey, Ebenezer Everitt, Joel Israel Chaffee, Silas, Daniel and Timothy St. John, and Lemuel Young.

Calling on the attendees to rely on their imaginations, Vermilyea asked them to pic-

ture the Rev. Cotton Mather Smith, who, in 1775, was the minister of the Sharon Congregational Church. He was preaching one morning when he announced from the pulpit that blood had been shed at Lexington and Concord. “The Revolution had come to Sharon,” Vermilyea said.

The British had imposed the Coercive Acts, and when the colonists rebelled, the Port of Boston was closed. Sharon citizens, like many others, refused to tolerate such action, gathered food and money to send to Boston, while noting, “If it could happen in Boston, it could happen here.”

Most of those who went off to fight were farmers who realized their property went hand-in-hand with liberty. Property made it possible to provide for their families and contribute to their communities. A farm meant independence.

“These men were not fighting for abstract principles alone,” said Vermilyea. “They were fighting for the communities they knew, the land they worked and the future they hoped to leave their children.”

The men could either join local militias, where they were expected to serve for a short period, or the Continental Army, where their future would be much more uncertain.



PHOTO BY ALLISON GOLLENBERG

Attendees of a June 27 cemetery talk settle in to hear historian and teacher Peter Vermilyea speak about the 21 Revolutionary War soldiers buried at Ellsworth Burying Ground.

Vermilyea also highlighted other local soldiers whose names appear on the surrounding tombstones. One was David Downs, who commanded Colonel Charles Burrall’s regiment. Another was Asa Rice, who fought at the ill-fated Battle of the Cedars in Canada.

But while the British were the obvious enemy, Vermilyea spoke of the invisible killer—disease. Smallpox claimed thousands of lives during the war. He painted a bleak picture of the hard-

ships Connecticut men endured during the winter of 1776-77, often fighting without adequate clothes, shoes, blankets or food.

“Their perseverance may have been their greatest contribution to American independence,” he said.

Vermilyea asked the audience to look around at the stones, saying it’s easy to focus on the Founding Fathers when studying the Revolutionary War.

“But the Revolution was won by communities. And

by ordinary men. Today we stand among them. Their war is no longer a distant event in a textbook. It is part of the landscape around us. And that is why places like Ellsworth Cemetery matter. They remind us that history remains here.”

The event also highlighted the cemetery itself and the volunteers who work to preserve its history.

“This is one of the oldest burial grounds,” said Carol Ascher, a member of the Ellsworth Burying Ground

Committee. The volunteer group, which organized the event, helps maintain and care for the historic cemetery.

She also showed visitors the grave of Joseph Lord, who donated the land for the cemetery to the Ellsworth Society. Originally buried on Tichnor Road, Lord’s remains were moved across the road after flooding made the original burial site unsuitable, making him the first person interred at Ellsworth Burying Ground.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF DIANA H. CLARK
Late of Sharon (26-00224)
The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 16, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
The fiduciary is:
Jon C. Lafleur
c/o Anthony Carmine Palumbo
Anthony C. Palumbo, LLC
26 South Main Street
P.O. Box 841
Kent, CT 06757
Jordan Bergs Clerk
07-02-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF JOHN M. O'HARA, SR.
Late of Salisbury (26-00215)
The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 4, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
The fiduciary is:
John M. O'Hara, Jr.
c/o Joyelle Maini
Harris Beach Murtha Cullina PLLC
782 Bantam Road,
PO Box 815,
Bantam, CT 06750
Jordan Bergs Clerk
07-02-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF KEVIN J. HUBER
Late of Salisbury (26-00229)
The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 11, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
The fiduciary is:
Celina Huber
c/o Thomas Babson Kane Kane Hartley & Kane, P.C.
972 New London Tpke
Glastonbury, CT 06033
Jordan Bergs Clerk
07-02-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF LINDA SOLTIS PERKINS
Late of Norfolk (26-00244)
The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 16, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
The fiduciary is:
Barbara J. Perkins
7 Mountain Road
PO Box 147
Norfolk, CT 06058
Jordan Bergs Clerk
07-02-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF MICHAEL ENGLISH
Late of Falls Village (26-00046)
The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 9, 2026 ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
The fiduciary is:
Philip English
1520 Ohm Ave
Apt 1
Bronx, NY 10465
Jordan Bergs Clerk
07-02-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF ROBERT EDWARD LEIBROCK
Late of Sharon AKA Robert E. Leibrock (26-00218)
The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 9, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
The fiduciary is:
Robert William Liebrock
c/o LINDA M PATZ, DRURY, PATZ & CITRIN, LLP, 7 CHURCH STREET, P.O. BOX 101, CANAAN, CT 06018
Jordan Bergs Clerk
07-02-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF SHEILA BEURKET
Late of West Cornwall (26-00214)
The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 4, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
The fiduciary is:
Patricia Vanicky
c/o Arthur Charles Weinshank
Cramer & Anderson LLP
51 Main Street
New Milford, CT 06776
Jordan Bergs Clerk
07-02-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF WILLIAM C. HOWER, III
Late of Salisbury (26-00265)
The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 16, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
The fiduciary is:
Rosanne F. Hower
c/o Kevin F Nelligan
The Law Offices of Kevin F. Nelligan, LLC
194 Ashley Fls Rd
POB 776, Canaan, CT 06018
Jordan Bergs Clerk
07-02-26

TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE
TOWN OF CANAAN
Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the undersigned Tax Collector of the Town of Canaan gives notice that she will be ready to receive Motor Vehicle taxes and the first installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes due July 1, 2026 at the Tax Collector's office in the Canaan Town Hall, 108 Main St, Falls Village, CT on Monday's 9am - 12pm. & Thursdays 8am-11am.
Payments must be received or postmarked by August 3, 2026 to avoid interest.
All taxes remaining unpaid after August 3, 2026 will be charged interest from July 1, 2026 at the rate of 1.5% for each month elapsing from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146
Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of his/her responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. Sec. 12-130
Rebecca M Juchert-Derungs,
Tax Collector, CCMC
06-25-26
07-02-26
07-23-26

TAX COLLECTOR TOWN OF SALISBURY CT LEGAL NOTICE
The taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that I have received the Warrant and the Rate Bill to collect taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2025 with a levy of 9.80 Mills. Said taxes become due on July 1, 2026. If said Real Estate and Personal Property tax

is over \$100.00, it is payable in four installments due: July 1, 2026, October 1, 2026, January 1, 2027, April 1, 2027. Motor Vehicle tax shall be paid in one installment due: July 1, 2026. Payments must be received or postmarked by August 3, 2026. If said Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle taxes are not paid on or before August 3, 2026 interest at the rate of 1.5% (18% annually) will apply. The minimum interest charge is \$2.00. Taxes can be paid by mail addressed to: Tax Collector, PO Box 338, Salisbury CT 06068. WPCA Sewer use fees for the year July 1, 2026 are also due and payable by August 3, 2026. Tax office hours are Monday and Wednesday 9am-4pm and Friday 9am—3pm. There is a drop box in the vestibule of the Town Hall open 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday and a 24 hour drop box on the Factory Street back side of the Town Hall. Please check salisburyct.us for additional credit card payment information. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT INVALIDATE THE TAX OR THE INTEREST. Please contact the Tax Collector's Office 860 435-5189 or taxcollector@salisburyct.us if you do not receive a bill or have questions. Dated this 3th day of June 2026.
JoAnne D. Dodge, CCMC
Tax Collector
Salisbury, CT 06068
06-18-26
07-02-26
07-23-26

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that a Primary of the political party listed below will be held in your town on August 11, 2026 for nomination to each office indicated below.

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the party-endorsed candidates, if any, for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street address of said candidate. The party endorsed candidates, if any, are indicated by an asterisk. Additionally, the following are the names of all other candidates who have filed their certificates of eligibility and consent to primary or have satisfied the primary petitioning requirements in conformity with the General Statutes as candidates for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street addresses of said candidates.

Office:Governor Democrat
Ned Lamont
4 Ashton Drive, Greenwich, CT 06831
Josh Elliott
28 Cobblestone Dr, Hamden, CT 06518
Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 24th day of June 2026.
Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State

The foregoing is a copy of the notice which I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State, in accordance with Section 9-433 of the General Statutes. As provided such primary will begin with early voting on August 3, 2026 through August 9, 2026, and the primary of the referenced party for nomination to the state or district offices therein specified will be held on August 11, 2026. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:
Early voting location: Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068.
Early voting hours:
August 03, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 04, 2026 - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
August 05, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 06, 2026 - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
August 07, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 08, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 09, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
HOURS OF VOTING: 6:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068. Absentee Ballots will be counted at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068.
Dated at Salisbury, Connecticut, this 24th day of June, 2026.

Kristine M Simmons,
Town Clerk
Town of Salisbury
07-02-26

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that a Primary of the political party listed below will be held in North Canaan on August 11, 2026 for nomination to each office indicated below.
Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the party-endorsed candidates, if anv. for nomination to

each office indicated, together with the street address of said candidate. The party endorsed candidates, if any, are indicated by an asterisk. Additionally, the following are the names of all other candidates who have filed their certificates of eligibility and consent to primary or have satisfied the primary petitioning requirements in conformity with the General Statutes as candidates for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street addresses of said candidates.

Office: Representative in Congress
Republican
Chris Shea
47 Forest Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410
Jonathan De Barros
47 Jan Court, Terryville, CT 06785
Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 24th day of June 2026.
Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State

The foregoing is a copy of the notice which I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State, in accordance with Section 9-433 of the General Statutes. As provided such primary will begin with early voting on August 3, 2026 through August 9, 2026, and the primary of the referenced party for nomination to the state or district offices therein specified will be held on August 11, 2026. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:
Early voting location: 100 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018.
Early voting hours:
August 03, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 04, 2026 - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
August 05, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 06, 2026 - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
August 07, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 08, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 09, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
HOURS OF VOTING: 6:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. at North Canaan Town Hall, 100 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018. Absentee Ballots will be counted at North Canaan Town Hall, 100 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018.
Dated at North Canaan, Connecticut, this 24th day of June, 2026.

Krystian Segalla,
Town Clerk
Town of North Canaan
07-02-26

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that a Primary of the political party listed below will be held in North Canaan on August 11, 2026 for nomination to each office indicated below.
Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the party-endorsed candidates, if any, for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street address of said candidate. The party endorsed candidates, if any, are indicated by an asterisk. Additionally, the following are the names of all other candidates who have filed their certificates of eligibility and consent to primary or have satisfied the primary petitioning requirements

in conformity with the General Statutes as candidates for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street addresses of said candidates.

Office: Governor
Democratic
Ned Lamont
Ashton Drive, Greenwich, CT 06831
Josh Elliott
28 Cobblestone Dr, Hamden, CT 06518
Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 24th day of June 2026.
Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State

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August 08, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 09, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
HOURS OF VOTING: 6:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. at North Canaan Town Hall, 100 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018. Absentee Ballots will be counted at North Canaan Town Hall, 100 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018.
Dated at North Canaan, Connecticut, this 24th day of June, 2026.

Krystian Segalla,
Town Clerk
Town of North Canaan
07-02-26

Legal Notice

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Secretary of the State

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Early voting location: Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068.
Early voting hours:
August 03, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 04, 2026 - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
August 05, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 06, 2026 - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
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August 08, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
August 09, 2026 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
HOURS OF VOTING: 6:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068. Absentee Ballots will be counted at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068.
Dated at Salisbury, Connecticut, this 24th day of June, 2026.

Kristine M Simmons
Town Clerk
Town of Salisbury
07-02-26

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application # 2026-0323 by George Johannesen (Allied Engineering Assoc. Inc.) for a detached apartment on a single-family residential lot at 62 Rocky Lane, Salisbury, Map 66, Lot 27 per Section 208 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The owners of the property are Jeffrey Bravin, Naomi Bravin, Linda Williams, & Wesley Miller. The hearing will be held on Monday, July 6, 2026 at 6:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/agendas/. The application materials will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to landuse@salisburyct.us. Paper copies of the agenda, meeting instructions, and application materials may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall. 27 Main

Street, Salisbury CT.
Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Robert Riva, Secretary
06-25-26
07-02-26

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF KENT

The first installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2025 is due and payable July 1, 2026. The first installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2025 will become delinquent on Tuesday, August 4, 2026. As soon as the tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 1.5% per month from July 1, 2026 until the same is paid. Bills may be viewed and paid online by going to the Tax Collector's page on the Town of Kent website at www.townofkentct.gov. The Tax Collector's office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

There is a red drop box next to the front door of the Town Hall for payments.

Payments are also welcome through the mail at P. O. Box 311, Kent, Connecticut 06757.

Deborah Devaux CCMC
Tax Collector
06-25-26
07-02-26
07-23-26

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on June 15, 2026:Approved — Subdivision Application # 2026-0324 by owner Robert A. Belter, for a Family Subdivision Resulting in the Creation of One New Lot. The properties are shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 07 as Lots 8 and 9 and are located at 220, 226, and 228 Salmon Kill Road, Lakeville.Approved - Special Permit Application #2026-0321 by owners Michael S. Shuster & Deborah A. Morel, for a detached apartment on a single-family residential lot in accordance with Section 208 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 11 as Lot 31 and is located at 94 Salmon Kill Road, Salisbury.

Approved conditioned on utilization of a crossing guard, remote parking of employees, and parking flexibility limited to a 99-seat theater - Special Permit Application # 2021-0320 by Andrus Nichols, for change of use from single-family residential to theater in the Flood Plain Overlay District and Parking for Existing Building in the CG20 Zone in accordance with Sections 401.3 and 703.7 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 49 as Lot 107 and is located at 16 Farnum Road, Lakeville.

Any aggrieved person may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8.

Town of Salisbury
Planning &
Zoning Commission
Robert Riva, Secretary
07-02-26

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE TOWN OF SHARON

The Town of Sharon at Town Meeting on June 18, 2026, voted to adopt an ordinance pertaining to signs on the Sharon Green.

The full context of this ordinance is on file with the Sharon Town Clerk, where a copy can be obtained.

This document is prepared for the benefit of the public, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation. This document does not represent the intent of the legislative body of the Town of Sharon for any purpose (CGS — 157).

This change to take effect fifteen (15) days from publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Sharon. 06-25-2026.

Submitted by:
Bianca DelTufo
Sharon Town Clerk
07-02-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ALFRED T. BEHRENS Late of Huntington (26-00223)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 16, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Marrilyn Behrens
c/o Emily D Vail
Vail & Vail, LLC
5 Academy St
PO Box 568
Salisbury, CT 06068

Jordan Bergs
Clerk
07-02-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ANTHONY EPWORTH Late of Salisbury (26-00253)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 11, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:
Marsden Epworth
c/o Linda M Patz
Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP
7 Church Street,
P.O. Box 101
Canaan, CT 06018

Jordan Bergs
Clerk
07-02-26

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to legals@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

Our Towns



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Delays in a project to renovate the former community center into four affordable apartments were a focus of discussion between the Planning and Zoning Commission and housing advocates at a meeting on Wednesday, June 24.

Housing emerges as key priority in Sharon planning update

By Alec Linden

SHARON – Officials say diversifying Sharon’s housing inventory remains a long-term priority, even as litigation, funding challenges and state regulatory hurdles continue to stall several affordable housing projects.

Affordable housing is one of three major priorities identified during Sharon’s update of its state-required Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which is due by the end of the year. The discussion came during the third meeting on the plan, following earlier sessions in April and May focused on economic development and conservation.

Janell Mullen, a Sharon native and land use consultant hired by the Planning and Zoning Commission to prepare the update, described the POCD as “a road map for the next 10 years of planning and development” during the commission’s meeting Wednesday, June 24, attended by commissioners and several members of the public.

Mullen said responses to a survey distributed earlier this year showed broad support for not only expanding affordable housing opportunities in town, but also a desire for diversifying Sharon’s housing stock. Residents identified a need for quality housing, senior housing, middle-income housing, village center options, workforce housing, small-scale multifamily housing and housing specifically dedicated to full-time residents.

Much of the discussion throughout the meeting centered on proposed and existing projects that have faced challenges.

P&Z Chair Laurence Rand III said one such project was approved but “remains in limbo.”

The project, known as the Gold Dog housing development, is a controversial condominium development on Hospital Hill Road, which prompted months of contentious public hearings last year. The project calls for 12 duplexes arranged along a new cul-de-sac on a forest-

ed hillside below the Sharon Hospital Medical Arts Center.

Since the project’s April 2025 approval, the project has been tied up in litigation brought after widespread neighborhood opposition during the approval process.

Several, however, spoke out in support, arguing its middle-income target price would fill a gap in the market and allow working families to settle in town.

Other ongoing developments and current housing opportunities have faced difficulties recently. The Sharon Housing Authority is an independent agency charged solely with the management of Sharon Ridge, an affordable housing complex opened in 1992, and its sister complex, known as Sharon Ridge Expansion, built in 2013. The group manages a total of 32 subsidized units across both neighborhoods.

Jennifer Baird, secretary of the Authority, said it has found itself in dire financial straits, partially due to what she described as a governing model that has made fundraising and maintenance difficult. At a town meeting on June 29, which also saw the budget passed, residents approved contributing \$60,000 in town funds to help the authority cover emergency maintenance and repairs projects and to commission study to aid future grant-seeking efforts.

Speaking at the June 29 town meeting, Authority Chair Don Castonguay justified supporting Sharon Ridge and the Expansion: “It’s one of the nicest affordable housing projects in Litchfield County, and we want to keep it that way.”

In planning for future handling of affordable housing initiatives, Baird advocated for a “really integrated and unified approach,” such as a municipal affordable housing

commission, similar to other towns in the region like Salisbury, Cornwall and North Canaan.

Back in the town’s commercial center, a project from the Sharon Housing Trust to add four additional units of affordable housing at the former town community center on North Main Street – adjacent to six already occupied affordable apartments – has been stalled by state-level red tape even after having broken ground last year.

“We’re sort of at a stalemate there,” said John Hecht, who sits on the board of the SHT but spoke as a resident at Wednesday’s meeting. He said that a state historic preservation agency had prevented the group from re-siding the three occupied buildings, its first step in renovating the entire complex into a unified affordable housing “complex.”

The community center renovation is also at a standstill as it awaits approval from the state historic preservation agency. “There are four units that can be rented to families and we’re being held back,” Hecht said frustratedly.

Regardless of setbacks, Mullen said that Sharon was one of the most supportive towns she has worked with when it comes to affordable housing.

P&Z member Betsy Hall, who earlier in the meeting acknowledged “astronomical” rents in town, said she knew why: “Sharon is a town that wants to solve its problems.”

The next planning session for the POCD is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, and will focus on farmland preservation to make up for the last meeting, where time constraints prevented discussion on the topic.

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RETREAT

Continued from Page A1

he did not agree to the sale. “In September 2025, the Trustees accepted an offer of \$615,000 from the same buyer, Low Road Sharon Inc.,” Bartram wrote in his objection to his sisters’ second attempted sale. “All beneficiaries except the Movant [Peter] signed the Beneficiary Approval. The Court denied the proposed modification on November 26, 2025.

The new petition seeks approval for essentially the same sale, with the purchase price of \$650,000, an increase of \$35,000 since the last attempted sale.

Neither the parties to the probate case nor Conley Rollins, who has represented Low Road Sharon in previous town applications and is the COO and CFO of the Brooklyn Museum, provided comment. Rollins also did not respond to questions about whether the proposed purchase would be connected to the artists’ retreat.

The property at 60 Millerton Road includes an unoccupied 1840 white clapboard farmhouse near the Silver Lake Shores neighborhood. Together with two much smaller adjoining parcels included in the proposed sale, it has been held by the Hillside Farm Trust since 2013.

The trust was established in 2012 by Maynard and Barbara Bartram, who were both raised in the colonial home, which sits prominently at the corner of Millerton Road and Silver Lake Shore Road.

Following Maynard Bartram’s death in 2021 and the death of their daughter, Sarah Noyes, in 2022, Carey Meltzer, Peter Bartram and Amy Bartram have served as the remaining trustees. Peter Bartram, however, was removed as a trustee by court order in 2024 after he removed several trees from the property to protect a barn without his siblings’ approval.

As part of the June 30 proceedings, Judge Richards is also expected to consider



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

A 22.5-acre property at 60 Millerton Road in Sharon, which includes this house, is at the center of a trust dispute over the sale of the land to Jasper Johns-related arts nonprofit Low Road Sharon Inc.

Bartram’s request to be reinstated as a trustee.

In an April 30 court filing, Meltzer and Amy Bartram argued the property has become a financial burden for the trust and they have a right to put it on the market.

“The farm is a significant and depreciating asset that incurs ongoing carrying costs including property taxes, insurance, maintenance and utilities,” they argued.

The three parcels included in the proposed sale are assessed at more than \$813,000, with the main 22.5-acre parcel accounting for nearly all of that value. As of June 25, the property was listed for sale through Elyse Harney Real Estate for \$795,000.

Property borders planned artists’ retreat

The proposed purchase has drawn interest because the Millerton Road property directly borders land already designated for Low Road Sharon’s planned artists’ retreat.

The retreat, approved by Sharon Planning and Zoning in 2017, encompasses approximately 171 acres spread across six parcels that stretch from Low Road to the shoreline of Mudge Pond. The approval allows up to 24 artists in residence at one time and does not permit public access to the campus. The property would be able to contain up to six housing units. Each housing unit is permitted to accommodate up to three

people.

Any proposal to expand or materially alter the footprint approved in 2017 would require additional review by the Planning and Zoning Commission and a public hearing, outgoing Land Use Administrator Jamie Casey said.

Low Road Sharon has not indicated whether the Millerton Road property would become part of the retreat or serve another purpose.

Johns, who has lived in Sharon for more than three decades, is widely regarded as one of America’s most influential living artists. According to the 2017 statement of proposed use submitted to the town, the residency program is intended to become “one of the leading artists’ residency programs in the United States,” comparable to MacDowell in New Hampshire and Yaddo in Saratoga Springs, New York.

The proposal envisioned a staff of roughly 20 to 25 people, some of whom would work at an administrative functions and event space based at a downtown Sharon office.

Construction is already underway on that downtown property, including a

new building which is going up where the former Bargain Barn thrift store was located at 1 Low Road. The two-building complex, approved after months of public hearings last year, will primarily serve as the nonprofit’s administrative center and include a venue designed to host occasional public cultural events that would be free to the public.

Low Road Sharon was incorporated in 2022 to establish a short-term residency program for artists across multiple disciplines. According to its 2024 tax filing, the organization reported approximately \$32 million in assets. A separate philanthropic organization founded by Johns in 2004, the Low Road Foundation, reported approximately \$255.5 million in assets in 2024.

The commercial district project boasts an impressive development team. Lead architecture outfit Johnston Marklee & Associates is a Los Angeles-based firm with an accomplished international portfolio of projects like the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Kunstmuseum Basel, the Institute of Contemporary Arts at the University of Pennsylvania and many others.

New Haven’s Reed-Hilderbrand is the landscape architect for the Low Road development, and has designed for a wide variety of clients, including Yale University, Duke University and the Hudson Valley’s famed outdoor museum, the Storm King Art Center.

The owner’s representative Envoie Projects also manages high-profile arts facilities such as Harlem’s Apollo Theater, The Delacorte Theater in Central Park, and again, the Storm King Art Center.

SWIMMING

Continued from Page A1

Falls Village

The Falls Village Recreation Center located at 108 Route 63, is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. The center includes a beach-entry style pool, a playground, pool house, picnic area and charcoal grills.

Residents can enjoy access by claiming their free season pass upon arrival at the main office, or purchase a day pass for \$3 per adult or \$2 for children and seniors. For non-residents, day passes can be purchased for \$15 per person, an individual season pass for \$160, or a family season pass for \$320. From poolside story time to adult walking club, the recreation center also offers community events for all ages.

Swim lessons are also available, and cost \$50 for residents and season pass holders, and \$60 for non-residents. To register for swim lessons, email pool@canaanfallsvillage.org.

Kent

Lake Waramaug State Park, located at 30 Lake Waramaug Road, is a free access public beach including a swimming area, camping, kayak/canoe rentals and picnic areas. For cars registered outside of Connecticut, parking fees apply.

North Canaan

The North Canaan Town Pool, located at 7 Whiting Drive, features a life-guard staffed pool, a gated pool for infants and young children, a pool house and covered pavilion. Hours range from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

For Canaan residents entry is free, while \$10 day passes or \$75 season passes are available for non-residents. The pool offers swim lessons Monday

SWINGTIME

Continued from Page A1

Riveter-inspired character. “I think that the show does an incredible job of featuring the enormous shift in history that happened during WWII when women came to the forefront in a beautiful team effort.”

The show’s fading Hollywood starlet and band leader Marian Ames, played by Margaret Dudasik, brings a group of instrument-playing women to London, providing her with a meaningful second act as a performer for American troops stationed abroad.

“It was a period of time when probably everyone you knew was serving,” Dudasik said. “A husband, a high school sweetheart, a neighbor. It really shows that you never know what someone’s going through or dealing with.”

Michelle Lemon, who returns to Sharon after years of performing and choreographing at the Playhouse, enjoys significant stage time as she jams on the saxophone, guitar, banjo and piano throughout the show. But for her, it’s a moment of collaboration with the audience – one of many – that causes her to choke up during every performance.

“We invite the audience to sing with us, and to see people sing the lyrics back...I kind of have to disassociate because it’s so beautiful.”

Spencer echoed the sentiment, saying it’s a song called “Pack Up Your Troubles” that brings her to tears each night.

“The idea of 18-year-old boys singing such a happy, upbeat song in the midst of such evil and darkness is powerful,” she said.

Still, the show is chock-full of lighter moments and familiar tunes. Lauren

Seery, who plays Lt. Jean-nie Pielmeier and serves as an integral member of the band, enjoys the first moment when the cast breaks the fourth wall with style – and sweets.

“There’s a break in the middle of the song ‘Hollywood Canteen’ where the band gets to jam out over some really fun changes, and Lucy, Michelle and Margaret’s characters go into the audience and serve real donuts and coffee to the audience as if they were the troops,” Seery said.

Directed by Sharon Playhouse Artistic Director Carl Andress, the show features 30 different songs from the 1930s and 1940s in a fast-paced, upbeat production that brings audience interaction into the spotlight.

Originally hailing from six different states across the country, the cast currently resides in Manhattan or Brooklyn but has found a handful of local favorite spots during the show’s run.

The cast said they’ve gone as a group to Grassland Desert Cafe in Lakeville for ice cream more than once. Lucy Rhoades – who shines this year as Katie Gammersflugel after her breakout Sharon Playhouse debut as Dyananne in Million Dollar Quartet last summer – said her first job in New York City was working at an Irving Farm so she stops in for coffee in Millerton often. Others have enjoyed antiquing in the area, stopping at On the Run for a breakfast sandwich, and hiking in Kent State Park, soaking up views of the 250-foot waterfall.

Tickets for Swingtime Canteen are still available at sharonplayhouse.org, including a special holiday afternoon performance at 4 p.m. on the Fourth of July.

DICK HERMANS

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PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Dick Hermans celebrating Oblong’s 50th last summer.

A co-founder and long-time steward of Oblong Books, Dick has spent decades championing writers, readers, and independent bookselling. Equally important, he has generously—and often quietly—devoted his time, energy, and leadership to strengthening Millerton and the surrounding communities. His contributions have included leadership roles and active involvement with the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, the Millerton Business Alliance, the Irondale Schoolhouse, and his long-running New Harmony radio program on WHDD/Robin Hood Radio.

“I am honored by this award from The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News,” said Hermans. “I feel lucky to live in a region with so many remarkable nonprofit organizations and civic leaders working every day to strengthen our communities. Any contributions I have made have been possible because I have had the privilege of working alongside generous, committed people who care deeply about where we live.”

“Dick’s community leader-

ship is a model for us all,” said James Clark, Publisher and CEO of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News. “For decades, he has devoted his time, energy, and resources to causes that improve the quality of life in our region. He has done so with humility, generosity, and a deep belief in the value of community. We are delighted to honor Dick with the Estabrook Community Leadership Award and to celebrate his remarkable contributions.”

The award was inspired by Mary Lou and Robert Estabrook, who owned the newspapers from 1970 to 1986 and later served as dedicated board members. Committed to public service, they believed that publishing independent, high-quality local journalism was only one way to strengthen a community. In addition to their own nonprofit work, they also celebrated the contributions of fellow citizens who did the same. During their stewardship, the newspapers flourished, and Robert Estabrook’s editorials were twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

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PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Benjamin Reynaert

Benjamin Reynaert and the art of layered living

By Jennifer Almquist

Benjamin Reynaert is focused on creative direction and interior styling. He is market director at Elle Décor, a design consultant, and author of “The Layered Home: Inspiration for Crafting Cozy, Collected Rooms,” published this year by Clarkson Potter. He co-founded Ticking Tent, a market featuring antiques, luxury items and vintage treasures. The biannual event is held in New Preston, Connecticut, and Bedford, New York.

Adopted from South Korea at 3 months old, Reynaert grew up in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He always knew he wanted to be an artist. “I just loved drawing. I loved making things with clay,” he said. “Remembering what it felt like to be creative as kids and applying that to our creativity as adults is essential.” A graduate of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

PERFORMANCE

Local performer Vemilo transforms the Moviehouse

By D.H. Callahan

On Friday, June 26, patrons at the Moviehouse in Millerton were treated to a performance by local artist and musician Vemilo, who returned to the theater’s biggest room for a second full-length show.

Regular patrons will know Theatre Three as the setting for post-screening interviews, Q&As, discussions and the theater’s monthly movie trivia night. Vemilo’s performance entirely reimagined the space. With just a few props and pieces of furniture, the stage was transformed into Vemilo’s sanctuary.

Vemilo, who grew up in the area and lives in Millerton, defines himself as “a pop performance artist whose purpose in life is to break boundaries, stigmas and bring people together through his music, fashion and visuals.” To breathe life into that vision, Vemilo changes genres, outfits and even gender expressions throughout his performances.

The show, entitled “Metaonia,” took the enthusiastic audience through

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

ART

The nature of Upstate Art Weekend

By D.H. Callahan

On Thursday, June 25, a collection of eager art enthusiasts gathered at Olana State Historic Estate in Hudson to kick off the seventh annual Upstate Art Weekend (UAW).

Helen Toomer, founder, was joined by sculptors Ellen Harvey, Jean Shin and Gabriela Salazar to discuss their work and the legacy of painter Frederic Church. Church, whose 200th birthday is being celebrated this year, is widely credited as one of the founding members of the Hudson River School of painting. The discussion took place at Olana, Church’s grand estate, where the three artists’ installations are on view.

Church’s status as an early environmentalist was mentioned repeatedly during the conversation. Shin’s sculpture “Fallen,” which graced the lawn next to the estate’s main house during last year’s event, featured a fallen hemlock tree trunk planted by Church over 150 years earlier which had been wrapped in tanned leather. She described the work as a direct reference to Church’s experience witnessing the eradication of the area’s hemlocks as the leather tanning industry wreaked havoc on the natural environment of the Hudson Valley in the mid-19th century.

The relationship between art and the environment wasn’t isolated at Church’s former home. Instead, it seemed to be found all over UAW.

Now in its seventh year, UAW works to take the art world out of the city. At its best, the weekend gives artists and curators the opportunity to interact with unfamiliar environments. Just as often, however,



PHOTOS BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Opening of Upstate Art Weekend at Olana with Helen Toomer, Ellen Harvey, Jean Shin and Gabriela Salazar

it serves as a literal escape, allowing New York City galleries to bring works to pop-up spaces assembled for the express purpose of displaying fine art. The “Loading...” group show in Hudson did just this.

Transplanting six New York City galleries into an intimate event space, “Loading...” featured a wide variety of artists from around the globe. Sheroanawe Hakihiwe, an Indigenous artist from Venezuela, takes ancient practices and translates his observations of the Amazon into minimalist works. Michael Assif’s “Plant a Weed” highlights the human impact on a natural landscape while feeling like a marshmallow dream. And Margaret Curtis’ “S” uses the backdrop of a Hudson

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



Interior and exterior of Ellen Harvey’s “Winter in the Summer House” at Olana.



ART

Beneath the surface: Delano Dunn and Mickalene Thomas explore history, memory and art

By Natalia Zukerman

Before “Echoes in the Margin,” Delano Dunn’s new solo exhibition at Troutbeck in Amenia opened, the artist sat down with curator and artist Mickalene Thomas for a conversation at the Wassaic Project on Wednesday, June 24. Their wide-ranging discussion offered an intimate look into Dunn’s practice while situating the work within broader questions of history, memory and representation.

Presented by the Wassaic Project, the exhibition brings Dunn’s richly layered paintings into conversation with Troutbeck itself, the historic estate long associated with artists, writers and civil rights leaders, including W.E.B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes and many more.

Thomas, an artist whose multidisciplinary practice spans painting, collage and installation, first met Dunn when she was his graduate adviser at the School of Visual Arts. “I think your work needs to be out there more,” she said, noting the ur-

gency of this collection in the current socio-political moment.

Dunn’s layered collages often begin with an image unearthed from flea markets, used bookstores and forgotten archives.

“I go to secondhand shops,

old bookstores, any place that looks like it has history in it,” he said.

Sometimes, he explained, an image becomes the centerpiece of a work. Other times it simply sparks an idea.

“There’ll be an idea that pops into my head. I’ll read something or hear music or a lyric, and then I’ll think, ‘I’ve got to find an image that matches that.’”

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INSIDE

OUR TOWNS

Singer-songwriter plays Revolution-inspired songs in summer concert series

OUR TOWNS

Kent pop-up art installation



... Benjamin Reynaert

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Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where he earned a BFA and a degree in architecture, Reynaert also studied book-binding in Rome. His attention to detail and aesthetic sense reflect years of training and a finely tuned eye for objects. “Attending RISD nurtured my creativity and taught me how to problem-solve,” he said.

His career began at Martha Stewart Living. A contributor to Architectural Digest, Elle Decor, House Beautiful and Veranda, Reynaert has also served as style director at Domino. He has worked with Farrow & Ball, Chairish, Neiman Marcus, Sunbrella, Anthropologie, Gap, Bunny Williams Home and Stella Artois. He shares his work on Instagram via @aspoonfulofbenjamin.

“I’ve been fortunate to travel the country and abroad for Elle Decor, covering design fairs and trade shows like Deco Off in Paris, London Design Week in England, Cersaie Tile Show in Bologna, Italy, High Point in North Carolina and the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show in Las Vegas,” he said. He is drawn to unique objects and textiles. “As a market editor, the pieces that stick with me are not the newest. They are the ones I stumble upon and imagine living with.”

Reynaert is also co-founder of Ticking Tent with Christina Juarez, president of Christina Juarez & Company. The biannual event has become a destination for collectors and designers seeking curated antiques and design objects.

“I met Ben about 15 years ago when he was a young editor and design communications strategist,” Juarez said. “We immediately clicked. I was impressed by his multidisciplinary creative talents



PHOTO BY MANUEL RODRIGUEZ

Butter Wakefield’s kitchen from “The Layered Home” by Benjamin Reynaert.

“Creating a home is, at its core, an act of love.

BENJAMIN REYNAERT

— styling, writing, vision and impeccable eye — and his passion for the thrill of the hunt. I could not ask for a better partner and friend — my brother from another mother — and a yin to my yang. Two creatively minded people with a love of old and new beautiful things, and the ability to curate what the

luxury shopper doesn’t know they need and most definitely wants.”

Reynaert described the most recent Ticking Tent as the largest yet. “We hosted over 2,000 guests and transacted our most sales to date with 75 vendors,” he said. “The most exciting part is seeing friends and watching new connections being made. I’m excited for the next event, Nov. 13–14, in Bedford, N.Y.”

For Reynaert, objects are defined as much by narrative as by design. “An object is about

the story — whether it’s passed down in your family, something you worked hard for, bought on a trip, or a friend gave you,” he said. “With that added narrative, it doesn’t need to be the most aesthetically pleasing thing. The memory attached makes it beautiful. I like the idea of simple, seemingly insignificant items having a ton of meaning. Treat a thrift store painting as you would a Picasso.”

Greg Domres and Peter Nichols’ residence in Litchfield, which they share with their miniature schnauzer, Bunny, is one of 15 homes featured in Reynaert’s book, “The Layered Home.” The couple hosted a book signing at George Home in Washington Depot. “I first met Ben at press events during my time at John Derian,” Domres said. “We became friends and stayed connected professionally over the years.”

The book spans interiors from Eric Goujou’s shop The Wolf Tile in Paris’ 5th arrondissement to textile designer Schuyler Samperton’s Litchfield farmhouse. “Sharing the stories of talented, stylish people I’ve met during my tenure in magazines has been a privilege,” Reynaert said. “The most inspiring interiors are layered — with personality, patina and the poetry of a life lived. This book is my love letter to that idea.”

Reynaert said he would like to travel to Japan and Australia and hopes to develop his own product line in the future. “Balancing work and life is a challenge,” he said. He spends downtime with his husband, Luis Illades, in Delaware, where they are renovating a Victorian home.

“I feel incredibly fortunate to blend my work and my life in the home I share,” he said. “Creating a home is, at its core, an act of love.”

..Vemilo

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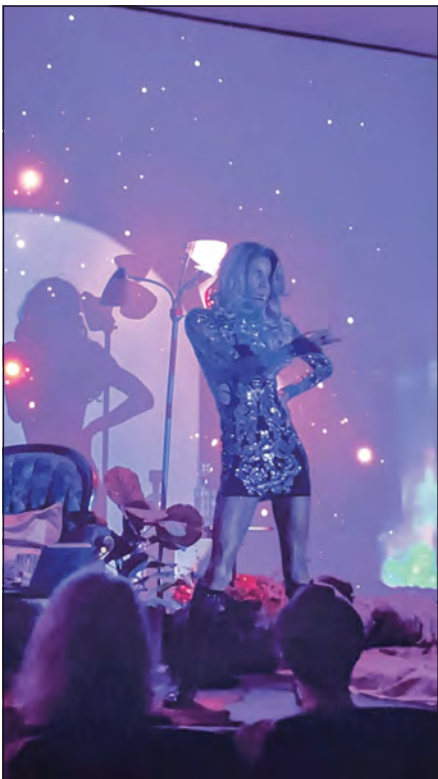


PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Vemilo performs at the Moviehouse in Millerton.

multiple, often emotional stages of what Vemilo refers to as his rebirth. Short vignettes set up original songs about identity and relationships, with the audience clapping along to the beat.

Moviehouse manager Jeremy Boviard is excited about alternative uses for the theatre. It could potentially act as a midsize venue for musical, literary and other artistic performances. The nearby Colonial Theatre in North Canaan has dipped its toes into live performances, but with that property up for sale, that momentum seems to be slowing.

With such a vibrant artistic community in the Northwest Corner and Dutchess County, another quality performance space would be a welcome addition. After all, if Vemilo’s performance taught us anything, it’s about the power of transformation and versatility.

... Dunn and Thomas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

His color palette also carries its own history.

“I grew up in L.A. during the L.A. riots,” Dunn said. “I would sit on my porch as a kid. I was watching the neighborhood burn, but the sky was beautiful.”

He still paints with those saturated blues, reds and oranges.

“Color can transport you. Color can make you feel safe, or happy or scared,” he said. “Those colors made me feel safe.”

For Dunn, Troutbeck’s own layered history became an active part of the work. Learning that the estate had hosted W.E.B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes, Ida B. Wells and generations of civil rights leaders informed his direction.

Dunn was given access to Troutbeck’s archives and found handwritten notes by Langston Hughes, and writings by Du Bois and Wells that found their way into the exhibition.

“There was a letter between Amy Spingarn and Martin Luther King Jr.,” Dunn recalled. “To be in its presence and hold it... you don’t see communication like that every day.”

Much of Dunn’s work invites viewers to dig deeper



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Delano Dunn’s “Echoes in the Margin” at Troutbeck.

into history rather than accept simplified narratives.

“I want them to look at it and go, ‘Wow, this is really amazing and interesting and colorful and beautiful,’” he said. “And then I want them to be terrified shortly after that.” He accomplishes this through bold, colorful, and often playful compositions that draw the viewer in before revealing their more complex historical underpinnings. As Thomas wrote, “Dunn’s compositions invite viewers to sit within that tension and take it in.”

That impulse toward deep investigation extends to Dunn’s own children, who are often his first audience.

“They’ll ask, ‘What is this? Why does this person look the way they look? Why are you using that color? Why are you using glitter?’”

Those conversations, he said, become lessons in looking beyond appearances.

Thomas framed collage itself as a kind of storytelling

practice — “the gathering of information... piecing things together”—and praised Dunn’s ability to translate research, memory and visual pleasure into a unified language. She also underscored the importance of creative joy in the process. “If you’re going to your studio and you’re not having fun,” she said, “you shouldn’t be doing it.”

Dunn said one of the



PHOTO BY LUCIA LANDOLO

Mickalene Thomas and Delano Dunn at Wassaic Project.

biggest misconceptions he hopes to challenge is the idea that there is a monolithic Black experience.

“There are so many different perspectives out there. This is just one of them,” he said. In the same breath, Dunn said he adopts the label “Black artist” because “it would make my Grandpa proud.”

The nearly two-hour conversation shifted seamlessly

between humor and history, studio practice and social commentary, ultimately returning to what both artists believe art can accomplish: encouraging curiosity, complicating familiar stories and inviting viewers to question what they see.

As Dunn put it, “History is so much more nuanced than what we’re taught. There’s so much more going on below the surface.”

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... Upstate Art Weekend

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

River School-style sunset to highlight the chaos of today's state of the American dream.

The flip side of this art-world field trip is the variety of makeshift galleries in the garages and barns of the Hudson Valley. Places like Ugly Mud Studios and Ten Barn Farm, both in Ghent, along with Foxtrot Farm and Flowers in Stanfordville, housed unexpectedly refined exhibitions. These venues all integrate sustainable practices into their business: Foxtrot is a regenerative flower farm, Ugly Mud uses locally sourced clay, and Ten Barn Farm operates a farm-to-table restaurant called The Kitchen.

But at the end of the day, UAW is about getting the art world into the wild. So it was no surprise to see a panoply of eye-catching outfits, and out-of-this-world works at Art Omi, the sculpture and architecture park in Ghent, on Saturday evening. Complete with avant-garde ambient operatic metal, the Summer Kickoff event served as a testament to the continued growth of UAW. It seems the seeds that Toomer and her collaborators planted seven years ago are flourishing, with no signs of slowing down.



Danielle Klebes' "Wassaic Motorcycle and Paint Club" at Wassaic Project.



Eddie Rodolfo Aparicio's "Invernadero herido (para Huerta)" at Art Omi in Ghent.



Artist Christy Gast with her sculptures at Friday Arts in Amenia.



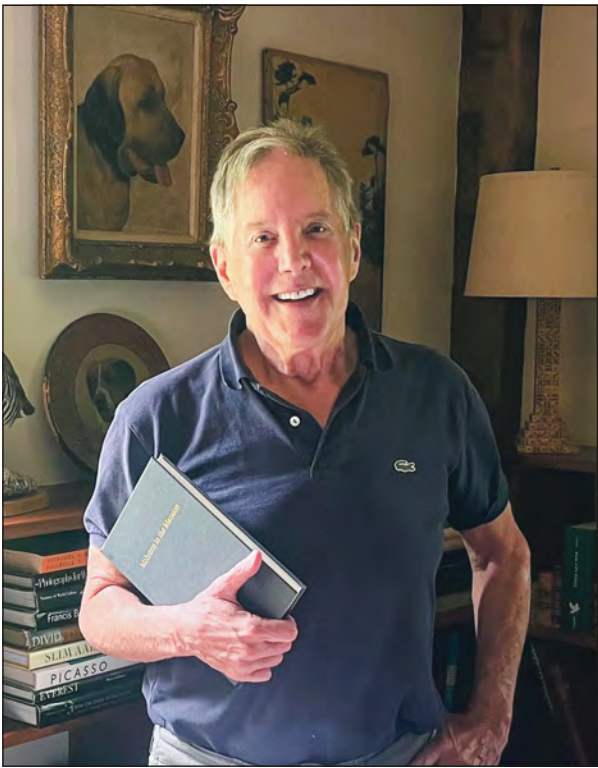
Nic Rad's "Get Online" at Ten Barn Farm in Ghent.



Lauren Carly Shaw's "Chimeric Lepidoptera" at "BUGS!" at Foxtrot Farm & Flowers in Stanfordville



Selected works by Sheroanawe Hakihiwe at "Loading..." in Hudson.



Scott Siegler at his home in Sharon.

BOOKS

After a Hollywood career, Scott Siegler turns failure into fiction

By D.H. Callahan

Scott Siegler is bored of success stories. But Scott Siegler has had the kind of successful Hollywood career that people write books about.

Before he was 30, he'd earned three degrees. Before he moved to Hollywood, he'd already won an Emmy for one of the nine documentaries he directed and produced. Before he helped launch Netscape, bringing the Internet to the public, he'd already started his own Hollywood studio.

Siegler's had a lot of success in his life, but he's not going to talk about it unless you ask him directly. He'll reluctantly tell you about defending "Married... With Children," the longest-running live-action sitcom ever aired on Fox, when groups of concerned parents tried to get it banned from Television. But bring up a real struggle, like the time he led the board of Pandora through 25 unprofitable quarters, and he lights up. The challenges thrill him more than the successes ever could.

Now, after spending a lifetime rising to business challenges of every stripe, he's settling into a more creative role. According to his longtime friend David Chase, creator of "The Sopranos," it's about time. Chase, who wrote the foreword to Siegler's debut book, "Mobsters in the Mansion," reminisces about meeting Siegler over 40 years ago. While Siegler had all the business sense of a top executive, Chase

could tell that there was something wilder and more mischievous than the average Hollywood suit.

That mischief springs to life on the pages of "Mobsters in the Mansion." The loosely autobiographical collection dives into the humor of hubris and failure. The stories unfold chronologically, from adolescence to midlife, but the characters don't adhere to any timeline. Instead, Siegler uses new people and perspectives to personify the stories he tells, allowing readers to immerse themselves in the emotional truth of the experiences rather than the particulars of one life.

Writing fictionalized stories based in reality freed Siegler from writing the truth. He believes the heart of the story is what matters more than the literal details. "It's true," he claimed during a conversation about his book, "but that doesn't mean it actually happened."

On Tuesday, July 7 at the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, Siegler will appear in conversation with renowned journalist Brian Ross. Ross has won six Peabodys, six duPont-Columbia Awards and is the author of the New York Times bestseller, "The Madoff Chronicles." His career in journalism — a profession that leaves little room for creative liberties — should provide an intriguing foil to Siegler's relationship with the truth.

To register for the event, visit scovillelibrary.org

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PHOTO BY STEPHEN POTTER

Crescendo, the Lakeville-based nonprofit specializing in early and rarely performed classical music, is taking a deep dive into the works of Johann Sebastian Bach this summer as artistic director, Christine Gevert, explores the genius of one of history's greatest composers through a series of public masterclass workshops at Saint James Place in Great Barrington. More information at crescendomusic.org.

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Tri-Corner Calendar

JULY 2

“Mail Myself to You” Screening & Mail Art Project
Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Filmmaker Imogen Pranger will screen her short documentary “Mail Myself to You” (2024), which explores the legacy and future of the correspondence art movement through stop-motion animation and 16mm direct cinema. A hands-on mail art workshop will follow, where participants can create a collaged postcard to send to a friend or loved one. Presented in collaboration with the David M. Hunt Library's Video Wall.

JULY 3

Let's Eat Cake! Annual Cake Auction and Cocktail Party
Sharon Historical Society & Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn.
The Sharon Historical Society & Museum's largest annual fundraiser returns at 5:30 p.m. with an evening of cakes, cocktails, wine, hors d'oeuvres and spirited bidding led by local auctioneers. Proceeds support the museum's mission to collect, preserve and share Sharon's history. Tickets are \$50.

Visitors can also view *Independence Revisited: Sharon in 1776, 1876, & 1976*, an exhibition exploring the town's experience of major moments in American history.

Dusty Wright Four Concert
Big Tent, 5100 South St., Chatham, N.Y.
Spencertown Academy Arts Center will present a free concert by the Dusty Wright Four as part of the Town of Austerlitz's 250th anniversary of the USA celebration. The band will perform Americana, folk, country rock and patriotic favorites, with special guests expected to join the performance. 7 p.m. Free. For more information, visit SpencertownAcademy.org.

JULY 4

A Celebration of American Democracy & Liberty Tree Project
Town Grove, Salisbury, Conn.
11 a.m. to noon. Join a nonpartisan pop-up celebration of American democracy at the intersections of Route 41 and Ethan Allen Street and Route 44 and Holley Street before the Salisbury Association's Fourth of July festivities. Participants are encouraged to wear red, white and blue and carry signs celebrating American values. RSVP to amymlake@gmail.com.

Beginning at noon at the Town Grove, visitors can add a ribbon expressing what freedom and democracy mean to them to a community Liberty Tree. Email salisburyhandsoff@gmail.com for information.

Family Day Celebration at AMP
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn.
Join us at 11 a.m. for a special Live Music Story Time featuring patriotic songs with AMP's music, movement, and literacy favorite, Michelle Begley. Afterward, explore our five-story mural celebrating the workers who make America great. Sew felt stars with members of the Winsted Senior Center—take one home and leave one

behind as part of a sparkling collaborative artwork that will be displayed at AMP throughout July. Other activities include scavenger hunts, games of cornhole, ring toss, and an opportunity to prove that you are a super-duper hula hooper! FREE admission for families.

North Star's 3rd Annual 4th of July BBQ Party
North Star at the Alander, 7519 State Route 22, Copake, N.Y.
1 to 7 p.m., chef Rob is busting out the grill and new smoker for a festive BBQ. There will be live music and yard games. Dogs welcome on the patio. Tickets at bit.ly/4vjmf5fC

The Salisbury Association 4th of July 2026
Town Grove and Satre Hill, Salisbury, Conn.
Celebrate 250 and Salisbury Association's 50th year sponsoring July Fourth at the Town Grove. There will be the reading of the Declaration of Independence, a special Boat Parade, a concert by the Salisbury Band, hot dogs and drinks sold by EXTRAS> That evening there will be dancing with DJ Slickrick at Satre Hill and a laser Light Show starting at 9 p.m.

JULY 5

Of the People, By the People, For the People: A Movement Choir
Five Points Art Center Campus Grounds, 888 University Drive, Torrington, Conn.
2 to 4 p.m. Choreographer Paula Josa-Jones leads this community-created movement choir as part of a celebration of America's 250th anniversary. The free outdoor event also includes dancing, food trucks and an art station. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets; indoor space will be available in case of inclement weather. Free. RSVP at ByThePeople250th.eventbrite.com.

JULY 6

Celebrate Recovery Concert with Heather Layne
Second Congregational Church, 800 Main St., Winsted, Conn.
California-based singer-songwriter Heather Layne will perform a free concert at 7 p.m., sharing original songs and her personal story of healing from domestic abuse and trauma. Presented in partnership with Celebrate Recovery, the evening will feature music, testimony, faith and encouragement. The event is free and open to the public.

JULY 7

Book Launch: Author Scott Siegler's “Mobsters in the Mansion” in Conversation with Journalist Brian Ross
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Author and media executive Scott Siegler joins veteran journalist Brian Ross for a discussion of Siegler's new book, “Mobsters in the Mansion,” a collection of stories tracing a prodigal son's journey from Midwestern affluence to the inner circles of California's entertainment industry. David Chase, creator of “The Sopranos,” has called the book “fearless and funny ... so knowledgeable, so true.” The event takes place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception and

book signing. Registration is required. More information and registration at scovillelibrary.org.

JULY 8

Crescendo Summer 2026 Choral Workshops & Talks: The B Minor Mass – Johann Sebastian Bach as The Architect of Gratitude
Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass.
July 8 to Aug. 5

Crescendo Founding Artistic Director Christine Gevert leads a five-part series exploring the political intrigue, mathematical codes and artistic innovations behind Johann Sebastian Bach's Mass in B Minor. Talks are held Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m., followed by choral workshops from 3:15 to 5 p.m. Choral singers are invited to participate in master classes featuring excerpts from the work, including the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo and Sanctus. Register at crescendo@crescendomusic.org or visit crescendomusic.org.

JULY 9

Maryland Boy's Choir
Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
Known as Maryland's “Official Goodwill Ambassadors,” the Maryland State Boychoir has inspired audiences around the world with its exceptional musicianship and rich choral tradition. Founded in 1987, the organization now includes 130 singers ages 7-20 who come together through a shared commitment to musical excellence, discipline, and personal growth. 7:30 p.m. Free.

JULY 10

Company
The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y.
July 10 through July 26
Rhinebeck Theatre Society presents Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award-winning musical “Company.” The production follows bachelor Robert as he navigates friendship, love and marriage with the help of those around him. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

PLACE | MEANT Opening Reception
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.
6 to 8 p.m. Millbrook Arts Project will celebrate the opening of “PLACE | MEANT,” a group exhibition curated by Sharon Bates featuring collage-based work by Laura Cannamela, Monica Church, Elisa Lendvay, Susan Newmark and Barbara Todd. Presented in conjunction with “Making Meaning: A Collage Symposium” at the Vassar Institute for the Liberal Arts, the exhibition explores themes of place, memory and materiality through layered works that transform fragments of the physical world into reflections on landscape, perception and lived experience. The exhibition runs through Aug. 22. A free artist conversation with Cannamela, Church, Lendvay and Newmark will take place at 4 p.m., and a hands-on collage workshop, “Collage Your Place,” is scheduled for July 25 at 2 p.m. Visit millbrooklibrary.org for information.

“Rebel Town The Musical”

Kathleen E. McDermott Auditorium, Monument Mountain Regional High School, Great Barrington, Mass.
“Rebel Town The Musical,” a new original American musical developed in the Berkshires, returns for America 250 with performances July 10-19. Set in colonial Boston in 1773, the production follows ordinary citizens swept into the events surrounding the Boston Tea Party through the eyes of apprentice Peter Slater and historical figures including Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere and Mercy Otis Warren. Created by Berkshire native John Alan Segalla, the musical features 27 original songs and a Berkshire cast and creative team. For tickets and information visit RebelTown-TheMusical.com.

JULY 11

Opening Reception: The Space Between Words
Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
Paintings by Israeli-born artist Talya Baharai who has discovered her raw, artistic voice using abstract narratives to express what language does not capture. On view through Aug. 30.

Community Puzzle Swap Day with Whistle Pig Books
Whistle Pig Books, 62 Main St., North Canaan, Conn.
Bring a gently used puzzle and exchange it for another, or simply take one! Children's puzzles and all sizes and difficulty levels are welcome. Free admission, open to the public, and no registration required. Please label if missing pieces. The event runs from 10 a.m.

to 3 p.m. Learn more at whistlepigbooks.com.

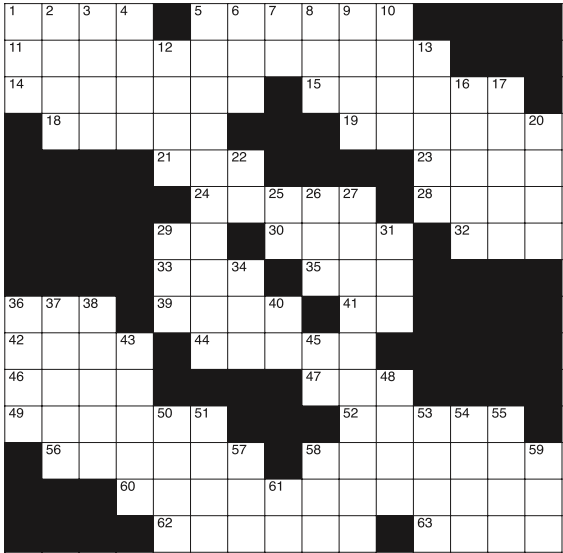
Giant Tag Sale
Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.
July 11 and 12
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Friends of the David M. Hunt Library will its annual Giant Tag Sale, featuring a wide variety of donated items. Proceeds benefit the library. Donations of quality items, excluding clothing, books and electronics, will be accepted at the Center on Main from noon to 5 p.m. July 10 and 11.

Garden Wellness: Acupressure for More Energy and Less Stress with Cris Caivano
Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y.
10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Advance registration strongly suggested at innisfreegarden.org

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

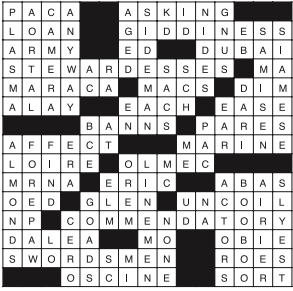
- 1. __ chat
- 5. Statue near the Pyramids
- 11. A process to change the look
- 14. Herb
- 15. Think about excessively
- 18. Bass vocal part
- 19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
- 21. A major division of geological time
- 23. New Zealand parrot
- 24. Cognitive contents
- 28. Lump of yarn
- 29. Atomic #109
- 30. Let go of
- 32. Indian title of respect
- 33. Whereabouts unknown
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Drivers' licenses count
- 39. Snakelike fishes
- 41. They precede C
- 42. Popular personal computers
- 44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
- 46. Wings
- 47. Indicates position
- 49. Pleasantly smooth or soft
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. __ Falls
- 60. Reassertions
- 62. Eras
- 63. Hyphen



- 16. Closes tightly
- 17. World Heritage site in Nigeria
- 20. Islamic calendar month
- 22. Commercial
- 25. “Westworld” actor Harris
- 26. They __
- 27. Religious guilds
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 34. Brew
- 36. Spiritual leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Older citizen
- 43. Scad fish genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)

- 50. Double S-shaped curve
- 51. Small, thin person
- 53. Older
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Word element meaning ear
- 58. To the __ degree
- 59. Residue

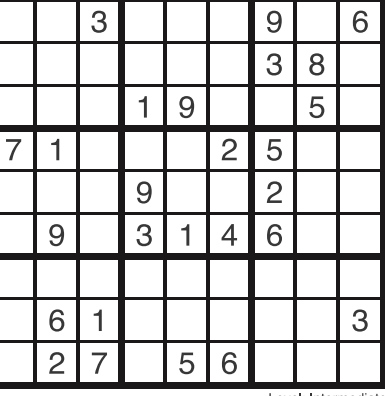
June 25 Solution



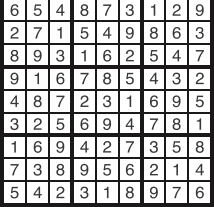
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Corporate executive
- 2. A plant used for flavoring food
- 3. Opinion or belief
- 4. Sheep in their second year
- 5. Intensities of sound
- 6. Indicates support for
- 7. Expression of laughter
- 8. OJ trial judge
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. True bugs genus
- 12. Lawyers argue theirs
- 13. Body parts

Sudoku



June 25 Solution





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Our Towns

Singer-songwriter plays Revolution-inspired songs in Falls Village summer concert series

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – Kent Besocke performed original songs about Connecticut’s Revolutionary War heroes and villains on the lawn of the David M. Hunt Library Friday, June 26, as part of the library’s summer concert series. Besocke, a native Californian who lives in Simsbury, Connecticut, accompanied himself on guitar, banjo and octave mandolin.

Warming up the crowd of concertgoers, Besocke introduced his instruments, beginning with his banjo. It originated in West Africa, he said, in the form of a gourd with a stick attached and a drone string. His acoustic guitar is what bluegrass players call a flat-top, typically a type of steel-string acoustic guitar. “I’ve lost track of how many songs I’ve written on this,” he said. Last but not least, the octave mandolin is similar to a standard mandolin,



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Connecticut’s Revolutionary War heroes come to life during a lively set of original songs by Kent Besocke.

but larger and pitched an octave lower. As a self-described “history buff,” Besocke said he researches the subjects of his songs in libraries or online, and when he finds the right story or subject, he waits for inspiration to strike. When he read about the legend of Abigail Hinman, who is rumored to have aimed a musket at notorious traitor Benedict Arnold during the siege of New London in 1781, he thought, “There’s a song here.” Overall, he said his songs are “inspired by the people who had enough, who could not tolerate the intolerance of the King.” The first song in his set, “Life for Liberty,” was meant to “conjure up memories of people who are gone” after giving their lives in the Revolution. Besocke played a traditional English song based

on 1783 pasticcio opera called “The Poor Soldier,” which premiered in London as the British and Americans negotiated the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the war. He also sang about Coventry’s Nathan Hale, an idealistic young patriot who responded to George Washington’s appeal for intelligence officers. “Unfortunately, he was a terrible spy,” Besocke quipped. As Hale made his way through enemy lines, masquerading as a Dutch schoolmaster anxious to get to British-controlled New York, he was foolish enough to carry identification, in the form of his Yale diploma. In a tavern, Hale met what he thought was a fellow patriot, and divulged his mission. Unfortunately, the confidant turned out to be a British officer. Hale was arrested, interrogated, and hung the next day. Besocke said the Revolution pitted family and friends against each other. “It was like the Civil War, in the sense that neighbors and families were divided.” Additional concert listings can be found at canaanfallsvillage.org/events.



PHOTO BY ANNIE PRINZ

Cricket players compete in the annual fundraiser in Lakeville.

Annual cricket match raises funds for SVAS

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE – The Salisbury Cricket Club hosted its annual fundraising match for the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service Saturday, June 27, and the friendly competition was divided into two teams: Salisbury vs. The Rest of the World. The event took place at Community Field in Lakeville. Club founder David Shillingford of Salisbury said the club was founded in 2017 and has around 40 active members. While the majority of the athletes live in or near Salisbury, the club does attract players from as far as Philadelphia and Boston for its annual match. Most of the players were natives of British Commonwealth countries, clad in traditional cricket whites. The club only plays once a year, and always to raise money for SVAS. Prior to the start of play, Shillingford went over the ground rules, which were part of the fundraising. That is, a ball that went into Herrington’s lumber yard next door would require a \$100 donation to the ambulance service. “It is a safety issue, after all,” Shillingford said. The SCC’s Ben Gore said on Sunday, June 28 that organizers are still adding up the total from business sponsors, merchandise sales and player contributions, but \$3,300 is probably about right. “It will be one of the largest raises yet.” Gore said the event welcomed some newer high school and college-aged players. “It was a nice addition to the rosters,” he said. The match attracted local sponsors including Fern, Grasslands Dessert cafe, Lakeville Books and Stationery, Elyse Harney Real Estate, B.Metcalf Paving, in addition to more national sponsors like Gooding Christie’s, goodapple and Integrum.

From rejected writer to documentarian, local filmmaker gives inside look at Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

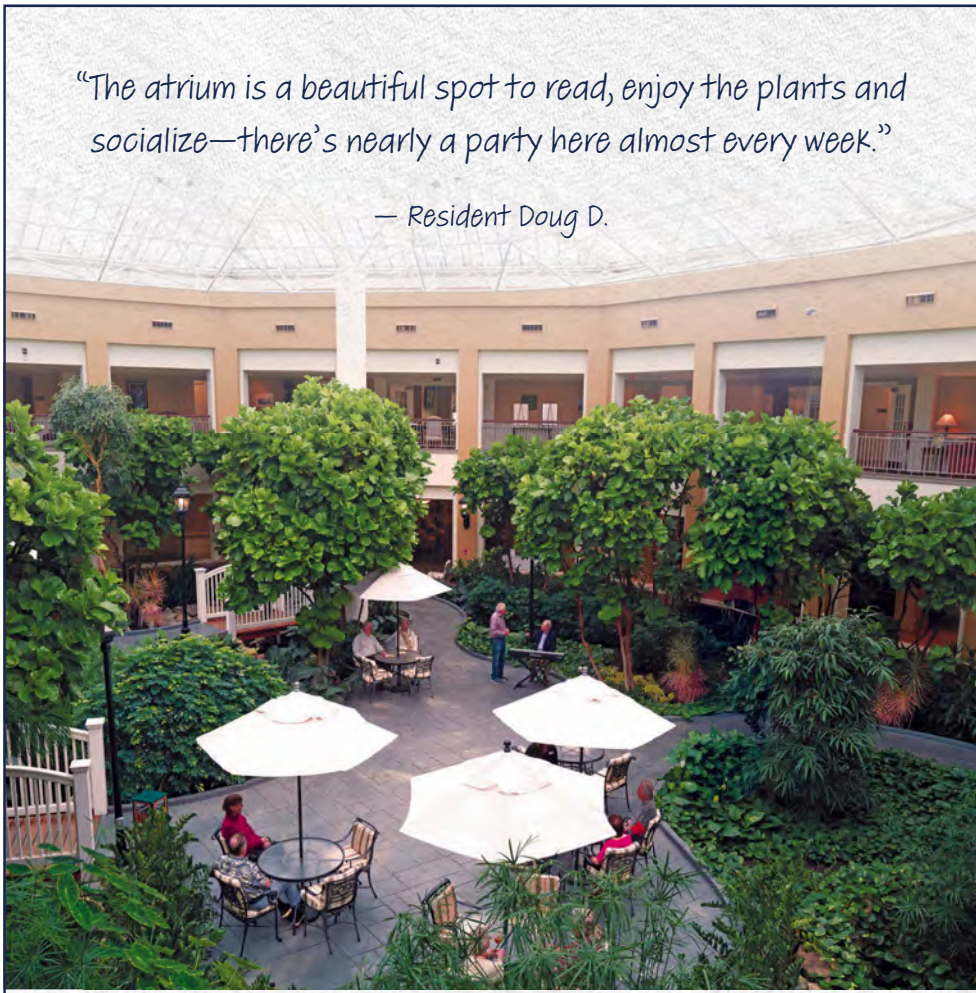
FALLS VILLAGE – Longtime filmmaker Eric Veden is the brains behind an extensive collection of videos documenting the people, places, and happenings in Falls Village spanning 26 years. The latest video is the 38th installment in a series that began in 2000.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Falls Village filmmaker Eric Veden, who has created 38 videos documenting the village and its people.

“When something broke, he could just take it in his shed and fix it himself.” The librarian at the David M. Hunt Library was Cookie Kubarek at the time. She saw the video and realized its potential. “She encouraged me to do more,” he remembered. When it comes to filmmaking, Veden said he is largely self-taught. He started with a VHS camera and later switched to digital, receiving technical advice and assistance from a friend, John Palinkas, a videographer who lives in Harwinton. Veden’s videos typically have a theme. Sometimes the subject is an event, such as the Memorial Day parade, or a lecture at the library. The bulk of the material is extended, one-on-one interviews with residents of Falls Village. Sometimes the subjects are willing to tell their stories. Sometimes a little persuasion is needed. Veden said he allows the interviewees to see the final product before it goes public. That puts people at ease, as does his unobtrusive style. He said he uses the bare minimum of equipment and personnel: a digital video camera with a microphone attached, a tripod, and himself. His interview technique is simple. He introduces the subject from off-camera, and the subject takes it from there. “It’s very easy-going,” he said of the interview process. “I just ask people to tell their life story and let them go from birth up to the present day.” He finds his interview subjects primarily via recommendations from previous subjects or from friends. Asked if the supply of subjects is starting to run thin after 26 years, he said it is a concern. “In fact, if anybody has an idea for an interview, call me,” he said. As an octogenarian, Veden has no plans to retire from filmmaking. He said he does it for the love of the process and because it keeps him in touch with “interesting people,” who often become friends. Asked if he makes any money from them, he said flatly “no.” And after 26 years and 38 episodes, he has come to a conclusion about Falls Village. “It’s a nice place and the people who live here love it.” Veden’s Falls Village videos are available on DVD at the D.M. Hunt Library and on YouTube under “Eric Veden Video.”



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The women who anchored domestic life in Revolutionary Kent come to life in new exhibit

By Alec Linden

KENT – In celebration of the nation’s upcoming 250th birthday, the Kent Historical Society has opened an exhibit that shifts the focus from the battlefield to the home. The domestic sphere and the women who ran it, the installation argues, were no less important in the cause of American independence than the treaties and military campaigns that dominate U.S. history education.

“Homespun Kent: Revolutionary Households” kicked off with appropriate Revolutionary fanfare for an evening reception on Saturday, June 27, at the Historical Society’s Seven Hearths Museum. Approximately 100 history enthusiasts enjoyed the detailed tour of Kent’s home life during the Revolutionary Era, which took full advantage of the preserved interior of the 1751 building.

“Women were the architects of an economic force that encouraged domestic self-reliance,” states an informational video that ran in a cozy parlor at the start of the tour. The homespun fabric movement was a women-led effort to domesticate cloth produc-



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Deborah Shiflett-Fitton operates a "walking wheel," an antique wool spinning device that would have been used by early American homespun fabric makers before more modern designs, like the one operated by Jo Mellis to the right, took over.

tion in protest of imported British merchandise in the years leading up to the Revolution, which the exhibit professes both helped cultivate a spirit of independence at a crucial moment while also servicing the practical need for wartime supplies.

“It’s more important than tea because you need

cloth to wear clothes!” said Deborah Chabrian, board president of the Kent Historical Society.

She explained that beyond the focus on fabrics, the exhibit is meant to amplify a quieter but no less important story of the American Revolution. “I had never really thought deeply about how it af-

fected someone at home,” Chabrian said.

“The women had to be just as strong,” she continued. “They had to hold the country together” while the men were on the battlefield.

The Seven Hearths Museum is an ideal venue for the exhibit as a Revolutionary home itself, explained Christine Adams, executive director of the Historical Society. Built originally as a combined residence and general store, by 1776 it was occupied by Daniel Beebe, Esther Pratt Beebe and their two children.

Daniel and his son Daniel Jr. would both leave to fight for the Patriots, leaving Esther to presumably operate the store, as well as an active fur trading post upstairs and a butchery, by

herself as one of the few active supplies purveyors in early “frontier” Kent.

According to an informational pamphlet distributed at the event, Esther is one of many “resilient housewives, mothers, and spinners who labored over spinning wheels, grew and carded flax, and wove wool to clothe their families, effectively anchoring early American domestic life.”

“These were stories I never heard growing up,” Adams said.

The opening reception also featured several live demonstrations of Revolutionary Era home life. In a sunny corner room, Kent Art Association Executive Director Deborah Shiflett-Fitton, dressed in colonial garb, operated an antique “walking wheel” or

wool wheel which would have been used by homespun fabric makers in colonial America.

It had been sitting in the building’s attic for years, she said as she deftly operated the device, and was revived in preparation for the exhibit by accomplished furniture restorer and Historical Society Vice President Roger Gonzales.

In the kitchen, Chabrian, also clad in antique clothing, cooked corn chowder over a wood fire in one of the museum’s namesake hearths. She explained that the soup was thickened with crackers according to an old technique that would have been used by cooks in chowders in the Revolutionary days.

Once finished, the ample pot was emptied in seconds by eager guests. Attendees then moved on to an eclectic selection of small bites that had been brought in colonial potluck fashion, complimented by beer, wine, cider and charcuterie, courtesy of the Historical Society.

Chabrian said that the overarching motivation behind the whole effort, which involved months of researching books, local history accounts and even original 18th century documents still on file at Town Hall, is to “bring an awareness to the history that we have here,” and hopefully inspire more to help steward it.

“Homespun Kent: Revolutionary Households” is on display until Oct. 31 at the Seven Hearths Museum. The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment.



PHOTO BY ALLISON GOLLENBERG

Civil rights activists Rev. Nelson Johnson and his wife, Joyce, are among the vibrant portraits featured on the Kent Green as part of a public art installation.

Kent pop-up art installation seeks to highlight truth-telling Americans

By Allison Gollenberg

KENT – A new public art installation featuring a rotating display of portraits will be on view at the Kent Green until July 15 as part of the town’s America 250 celebration. The portraits depict prominent Americans known for promoting civic engagement, social justice, and environmental stewardship.

Currently, the display includes five portraits and will remain there until July 1, when they will be replaced with five different images. Kent Memorial Library will show a film about the stories behind the portraits on July 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Exhibit organizer Megan Haney said the purpose of art is to “raise people’s awareness of themselves, their own potential and their responsibility to keep up the struggle to maintain American ideals.”

She said that while it is important to celebrate America, it is equally

important to correct the course of the country “by asking, ‘Are we doing a good enough job?’ And frankly, we’re not.”

The exhibit was created by Maine artist Robert Shetterly and his nonprofit arts and education group, Americans Who Tell the Truth. Founded in 2002, it uses original portraits set against vibrant colors depicting courageous citizens. Each portrait is accompanied by a biography and quote for visitors to take home.

Haney and a friend learned about the project from a PBS documentary, inspiring them to bring the show to the Northwest Corner.

“If one person is affected by this exhibit, I think it will be a success,” said Lynn Gray, who also organized the exhibit. “Sometimes it just takes one.”

Shetterly started painting the portraits in the years after 9/11, riddled with grief but also upset with the Bush administra-

tion for lying about weapons of mass destruction to promote the war in Iraq, he said.

“I thought, what can I do as an artist?” he said. “I thought, why don’t I surround myself with Americans who make me feel good about the country? I did it to make myself feel better. They’d be with me because I was painting their portraits.”

Shetterly said his goal was to create 50 paintings, but today he’s made 290 and they’ve travelled to 40 states. Now, he said he hopes to paint 300. All the portraits can be viewed at americanswhotellthetruth.org.

“I don’t know if we’ve ever been at more of a time in our history when we’ve needed courageous citizenship,” Shetterly said. “I don’t want people to look and see superheroes. They’re not to be up on pedestals, in fact, they’re models of how we can be. Everyone I’ve painted was flawed, but also did something courageous.”

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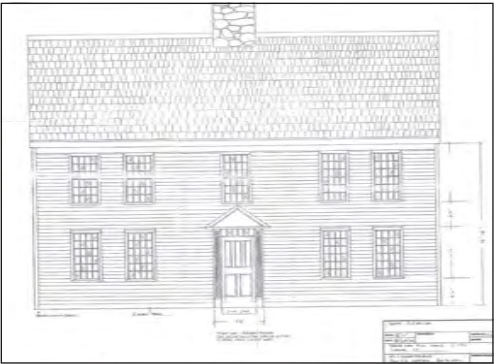
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